

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

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SEPTEMBER 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

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00am Ministerial Meeting	2 6:30pm Outdoor Worship-Holy Communion	3 	4	5 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
6 8:30am Worship at Home w/ Facebook 10:00am In Person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	7 Labor Day Office Closed Building Closed	8 9:30am Text Study	9 7:00pm Council	10	11	12 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
13 8:30am Worship at Home w/ Facebook 10:00am In Person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	14	15 9:30am Text Study Newsletter articles due	16 7:30-8:30pm Sr. High Youth Group 7:00pm Parent & Confirmation Student Vroom Meeting	17 	18	19 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
20 8:30am Worship at Home w/ Facebook 10:00am In Person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	21	22 9:30am Text Study	23 3:00-5:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm Confirmation Adventure night-Bon Fire 7th-9th Grade	24 	25	26 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
27 8:30am Worship at Home w/ Facebook 10:00am In Person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	28	29 9:30am Text Study	30 3:00-5:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm Out Door Worship- Chautauqua Park			



Highlights from the August Congregation Council Meeting

Capital Campaign/Flat Room Project: Due to the contractor running behind schedule, the roof project has been delayed. We still anticipate that it will be completed this season. As of July 31, the Capital Campaign Account was at \$40,000. The estimated cost of the project is \$105,000.00.

Sunday School & Confirmation: Sunday School will move forward with online registration in September. Classes or activities may start in October. Confirmation Classes will be held in small groups. Confirmation Sunday, October 25, will include a special service at 1:00 pm for Confirmation Students and Families only. The service will also be on Facebook Live.

Community Outreach: The Blood Drive and Outdoor Community Closet Opening were held in August. Both events were successful thanks to great volunteers. "God's Work. Our Hands." Day of Service has usually been held in September. No plans have been made for this year; however, we may see about doing modified activities in October, if particular needs arise.

Transitions in the Congregation:

Deaths: Edwin Whitcomb-Non Member,
Percy Page-Non Member,
Kenneth Suhr-Non Member

Wedding: Josie Olson & William Quick

Baptism: Theo Henry VonBank

New Member: Bobbi Jo Langemo

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.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: A new phone system was installed in August. Please bear with us as we learn how to use it. If we accidentally hang up, please call back!

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.



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.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

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

THANKS GIVING

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!

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 of convenience!

WORSHIP

An offering plate will be set out at indoor and outdoor worship gatherings.



Flat Roof Project

Due to contractor delays, the flat roof project is still waiting to be completed this season. **Gifts above and beyond your contributions to our general offering fund are needed for this project.**

Please earmark gifts for the Capital Campaign – Roof Project.

Send to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 138 3rd St. NW, Valley City, ND or give online at www.oursaviorsvc.org and click the blue "give online" button. Be sure to designate your gift to "Capital Campaign-Roof." If you give online, also please consider offsetting the service fees, but clicking the box at checkout.

Thanks to all who have already contributed to this project. You are "paw-some"! We've already collected 4 out of 10 paws towards this project.



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.

Welcome Bishop-Elect Moon Leiseth!



At the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly held on August 16th, the Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth was elected Bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod! Bishop-Elect Moon Leiseth is a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, and received an M. Div. from Luther Seminary, St Paul. She has served as Campus Pastor at Concordia and Country Coordinator for Southern Africa for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), and currently serves as Interim Senior Pastor at Horace Lutheran Church. She will be installed on October 31st.



Your pastors are available to bring communion to your home. We can meet in your driveway or front stoop for a physically distant communion service. We'll wear a mask and bring wafers and wine that are packaged in advance to try to ensure a safe experience. If you'd like a visit, please call the church office at 845-1328 to set up a time.



God Is with you...

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, in partnership with North Dakota's Behavioral Health Division, is offering **FREE** anonymous phone-in support, education and referrals to anyone dealing with COVID-related stress or concerns.

Project Renew services include supporting people in understanding physical and emotional reactions to COVID-19, developing and improving coping strategies and connecting with those who can provide assistance.

Concerns may range from simply needing someone to talk to or to more serious mental health issues. Counseling is confidential and available to anyone affected physically, financially or emotionally by this pandemic.

Project Renew helpline: 701-223-1510 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

www.renew@lssnd.org



Donations of NEW socks & underwear of all sizes, children and adult, will be welcomed in September. Place in the bin in the hallway near the office. These items will be distributed through the Community Closet. Drop off Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm or Sunday Mornings.



Each week in worship, we pray, “Lord, Have Mercy.” God’s mercies come to us anew each day. In worship this fall, we’ll remember God’s mercy that comes to us as gentleness, forgiveness, generosity, compassion, faithfulness, abundance, and righteousness.

Worship from Home

Each week, continue to worship from home at 8:30 am on “Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND” Facebook, at 11:00 am Radio Broadcast on KOVC 1490 AM, or Sunday after noon on “OSLC Valley City” YouTube.

Sunday In Person Worship

Sunday at 10:00 am, join a modified Service of Word & Prayer in the Sanctuary. Holy Communion is shared September 6 and 20. Masks encouraged and social distancing is followed. This service is particularly for those for whom Worship from Home is not working.

Wednesday Outdoor In Person Worship

September 2 – 6:30 pm at Pr. Kyle’s Backyard (1305 Chautauqua Blvd.)

Our worship service will include a Blessing for the Changing of Seasons and Holy Communion.

September 30 – 6:30 pm Worship with a Blessing of the Animals. Held near the dog park at Chautauqua Park. Animals, pictures of animals, and stuffed animals are welcome. You are welcome even if you don’t have an animal!

Please bring your own chair. Masks encouraged. Social distancing followed.

MidWeek Devotion

Each week, one of your pastors shares a short devotion on Wednesdays. It’s a great chance to pause during the week and remember that God’s mercy meets you, just as you are. Watch for it starting at 6:30 pm on Facebook or on “OSLC Valley City” YouTube page.



October Servants and Coordinators

Coordinators: Jan Stowman 840-1808

Dan & Ruth Larson 845-4257

Burton & Jean Vrem 840-5593

Bob & Joni Bergan
Loren Bjerke
Terry & Kristi Brandt
James & Sharon Buhr
Gerry & Melissa Didier
Jack & Vi Egan
Gerry & Mary Ann Gamrath
Jaci Haas
Bret & Toni Haglund
Jennifer Hatcher
Katie Hejtmanek
Lynn Holcomb
Craig & Cristal Larsen
Ron & Linda Manke
Mark Matson
William & Nancy Powell
Mark & Tonya Schlotman
Scott & Mary Tangen
John Thompson & Kara Kramin
Tony & Megan Zarbano

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	2 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:15- 12:45pm until they're gone! :-)	9 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	10	11	12
13	14	15 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:15- 12:45pm until they're gone! :-)	16 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ After school—5:00pm Must sign up to attend Confirmation Student and Parent Zoom Meeting—7:00pm	17	18	19
20	21	22 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:15- 12:45pm until they're gone! :-)	23 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Extended Kids for Christ After early dismissal— 5:00pm Must sign up to attend Confirmation Bonfire Night! 6:30-8:00pm Senior High Youth Group Bonfire Night! 8:00-9:00pm	24	25	26
27	28	29 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:15- 12:45pm until they're gone! :-)	30 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am			

Pre K - 6th Grade

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Sunday School registration will take place online this year. All youth PreK through 6th grade is invited to sign up! (Our PreK class consists of youth who will enter kindergarten August 2021.) The first day of Sunday School is set for October 4th, subject to change. If your family did not receive a letter regarding the online registration, please contact SS Superintendent, Katie Sather at oslc Sundayschool@outlook.com.
- **KIDS FOR CHRIST** will kick off on Wednesday, September 16th! All youth entering grades K-6 this fall are invited to sign up and join us after school each Wednesday until 5pm. Parents are responsible for transportation. This program will run a little differently this year. All OSLC families will receive an email from Kyla with a link to a Sign Up Genius where youth will sign up to attend each week. The weeks will have various themes such as legos, music, painting, theater, art, etc. This will give youth an opportunity to sign up for the weeks they are most interested in, and give families a chance to attend when they can while allowing more youth to sign up throughout the year. Only 15 spots will be available each week, so please sign up right away for the weeks your child wishes to attend. Currently, the dates for September and October are available for sign up. September 23rd IS an early dismissal day and I am going to offer the Extended Kids for Christ option, but again, only 15 spots will be available. Contact Kyla with any questions. I'm excited to share God's love with our youth and look forward to our time together again!

Jr & Sr High

- **CONFIRMATION** Families who have a 7th, 8th, or 9th grade student should have received information regarding confirmation. The registration process for confirmation will be online this year. A link to the registration form will be shared with these families via email. We will have a Zoom meeting for all of these students, as well as their parents, on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00pm. We will have our annual Confirmation Bonfire Night the following week, September 23rd. All other Confirmation information and details will be shared at the Zoom meeting on September 16th. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **TASTY TUESDAY** Unfortunately, I am not able to serve Senior High Lunch as of right now according to the OSLC Pandemic Plan. So, we are going to try something new! Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to grab a fresh baked brownie, bible verse, and devotion from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot each Tuesday from 12:15-12:45pm until gone. :-) I'm excited to see our youth again and provide a sweet treat for them each week!
- **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** I am excited to get our Senior High Youth Group going again! 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 always 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. However, the first gathering, September 23rd, is going to be a little different. We are going to have an outdoor bonfire night from 8-9pm, so more youth can attend that evening! Contact Kyla with any questions.

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

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

• PANDEMIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS •



RISK LEVEL

Our plan related to building use during the pandemic aligns with the North Dakota Department of Health Risk Level Scale.

BLUE | NEW NORMAL

- Small, groups, large groups, and in person worship gatherings can resume
- Food may be served in the building

GREEN | LOW

- Physical distancing and masks encouraged.
- Small & large groups may meet in the building
- Worship from Home Opportunities are encouraged. In person worship may be held.
- Refrain from serving food in the building

YELLOW | MODERATE

- Physical distancing and masks encouraged
- Small groups may continue to meet
- Worship from Home only. No in person worship gatherings.
- No food served in the building

RED-ORANGE | CRITICAL-HIGH

- Physical distancing and masks encouraged
- No in-person small group meetings in the building
- Worship from Home only. No in person worship gatherings.

Your church leadership seeks to ground their decisions in concern and care for our neighbors. Modification and adaption are necessary as situations and knowledge change.



Blessings for Daily Use

Morning Blessing

You may make the sign of the cross.

I am a beloved child of God,
marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Your mercies are new every morning.
(Based on Lam. 3:23)

Thank you, gracious God, for the gift of this new day.
Awaken me to your abiding presence;
open my eyes to your creation;
open my ears to your promises;
open my heart to the needs of others.
Fill me with your Spirit and guide me this day
in works of kindness, justice, and mercy.
I ask this in the name of Jesus,
the light and life of the world. Amen.

Evening Blessing

You may make the sign of the cross.

I am a beloved child of God,
marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Come to me, all you that are weary . . .
and I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28)

Thank you, gracious God,
for the gift of this coming night.
Restore me with your right spirit.
Calm my mind. Quiet my heart.
Enfold me with your bountiful mercy.
Protect me from all harm,
that I sleep assured of the peace found in you alone.
I ask this in the name of Jesus, who gives us rest. Amen

“On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there...” – John 2:1

Saying it again seems exhausting...but this year looks nothing like what we had planned. As the weeks and months have gone on, all of us, I think, have tried our best to make parts of this all feel “normal”, but of course it’s not.

Forgetting for a moment the plans the church had for this year with capital campaigns and stepping faithfully into some Holy experiments, this year was set to be a full one personally. In May, we were set to join our dear friend Liz for her wedding in Lancaster, PA. About a month ago, we had planned to enjoy the beaches of Tampa for some restoration and to celebrate the wedding of my best friend (also named Kyle). And then, of course, I looked forward to Sharayah and I’s wedding, set for October 24th in Chicago.

Planning to get to three out of state wedding’s was hard enough, on top of planning the one that is your own. To those who have felt the stress of a wedding – I hear you, I see you, and I understand.

In the thoughtfulness around my own wedding plans, I gained some perspective I think about the wedding at Cana from John 2. With all the weight of planning a good party, I suppose nothing could be worse than running out of wine for your guests. Lucky for that happy couple, Jesus was on the invite list that particular day. But I think maybe our challenge is to see this as more than a story of Jesus snapping his fingers and making a cab-sav, but rather as an invitation to find holiness in the chaos of things.

Sometimes you run out of wine at a wedding. Sometimes vacations are cancelled. Sometimes you have to scrap capital campaigns. In all things, regardless of if they worked out how we had planned or imagined, our faith calls us to trust that God is at work. Our story of faith is one of good news in the midst of bad situations, of hope and restoration in the midst of exile, and life even in the midst of death. For lots of us, it’s taken some intentional, thoughtful work to find that promise alive in our current daily realities.

But I share with you this parable. After cancellations by friends and difficult conversations, it became clear that our wedding as we envisioned wasn’t going to happen. And so, with uncertain futures and supportive families, we took the leap. Sharayah and I started the next journey in our lives together at the Lutheran Church of the Cross in West Fargo on April 1st with only 3 friends and a toddler in attendance, our families watching through a phone. And in that 20 minute service that started a bit late, with our dear friend and officiant Elizabeth Hiller crying the whole service, and our witness’ toddler banging on the drum set in an empty church, there was holiness, there was peace, and there was God.

As we as a church head into another program year, we do so knowing that things will be different – and different in ways none of us have ever seen before. And yet, we know and trust that God will be there, somehow and someday. In the sadness, the stillness, and Sabbath of the road ahead, may we be thankful for those moments where God breaks through making the ordinary, extraordinary.

Wishing you holiness and wholeness,

