

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

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January 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

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed Church Closed	2	3	4 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
5 2 Christmas Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	6 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	7 9:00am Ministerial 9:00-1:00pm Good Samaritans	8 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	9	10	11 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
12 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-1st Bible Presentation	13 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	14 9:30am Text Study 9:00-1:00pm Good Samaritans 1:00pm Bible Book Club-Gathering Room-Matthew	15 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Sarah Circle 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	16 2:00pm Hannah Circle	17	18 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
19 2 Epiphany Abused Persons Outreach Collection 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Foundation Annual Meeting 11:00am Worship	20 9:30am Prayer No Sr. High Lunch 12:10pm Unity of Prayer-St. Catherine's	21 9:30am Text Study 9:00-1:00pm Good Samaritans 12:10pm Unity of Prayer-Epworth United Methodist	22 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Unity of Prayer-Faith Lutheran 3:15pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	23 9:30am Pastor's Conference-Jamestown, Trinity	24	25 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
26 3 Epiphany 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 9:40am Annual Meeting 11:00am Worship	27 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	28 9:30am Text Study 9:00-1:00pm Good Samaritans	29 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation	30	31	

February
Our Savior's Servants

Dale Hildebrant 845-1281
(Interim) Ruth Larson 845-4257

David & Patty Bass
Leon & Tweety Bellmore
Terry Brock
Gwen Crawford
Mavis Dilt
Bradley Edin
Pat & Kathy Edinger
James & Patti Hildebrant
David & Diane Hochhalter
Harvey & Carol Hochhalter
Jeff Huseby
Matt & Cynthia Klabo
Bobby & Deborah Koeplin
Ruth Nathan
Gerald & Phyllis Nelson
Ray & Kandice Nelson
Jeanette Oberg
Jerry Perkins
Joe & Kandice Plagens
Dean & Deb Ross
Larry & Mary Salberg
Andrew & Melinda Schwab
Mavis Stearns
Clayton & Beverly Velure

Thank You to Our December Our Savior's Servants and their Coordinators:

John & Bobbi Jo Hurlimann,
Jim & Becky Verwey.

Flower Committee Members:

JoAnn Nathan & Eileen Winning

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

Food Pantry Sunday-January 5

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 and canned food. These items along with your generous donations each month are greatly appreciated.

For Your Information

*Friendly
Reminders*

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

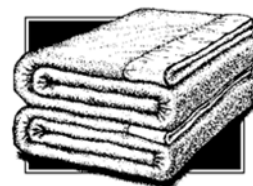
Phone Numbers

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.



Luther World Relief Baby Kits

The following donations are appreciated to complete LWR Baby Care Kits: New or gently used items for infants 6-24 months including cotton T-shirts (onesies work), socks, long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers, receiving blankets (36" sq. min.), heavier blankets, sweaters or sweatshirts with hoods, baby caps, hand towels, ivory bar soap and cloth diapers or flannel sheets to make diapers. There is a baby bassinet available to receive items during the months of November and December. Monetary donations are also appreciated to buy items and to pay for shipping. (Enclose in an envelope & label WELCA)



PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The week of prayer for Christian Unity begins January 20nd. Churches in Valley City will take turns hosting a noontime prayer service and soup meal. Watch the bulletin for information about locations and times.



Highlights from the December Congregation Council Meeting

Farm Fund Distribution

Gifts from the Farm Fund include:

Eastern North Dakota Synod- \$20,000

Red Willow Bible Camp - \$10,000

Luther Seminary - \$10,000

Lutheran Social Services - \$5,000

Barnes County Food Pantry \$5,000

Barnes County Salvation Army - \$5,000

Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church - \$2,000

Access for All – VCPS - \$4,000

School Lunch Debt – up to \$2,000

NDSU & UND Campus Ministries \$1,000

Our Savior's Lutheran Foundation - \$7,500 to be given in 2020.

The Council committed to a \$100,000 gift from the Farm Fund for Capital Improvements for Our Savior's Lutheran Church over the next 10 years, starting in 2020.

Farm Fund Manager Succession Plan Ken DeKrey has been the Farm Fund Manager for 45 years. He plans to continue in this position for 2 more years. Through much consideration, Ken's suggestion as his successor is Ross Berg. He would mentor Ross for the next 2 years. The council approved the recommendation for Ross Berg to be the Farm Fund Manager Apprentice.

Electronic Giving Option The Council approved setting up electronic giving options through Vanco, who currently manages our automatic giving.

Transitions in the congregation:

Deaths: Donald Nelson, Verna Davidson

Baptisms: Wrenley Jude Lindemann



January is Our Savior's turn to deliver food for the Backpack Food Program. Food is stored at Epworth United Methodist Church. Wednesday volunteers pull out packages for delivery to schools in the county. Thursday volunteers deliver to schools in Valley City. Sign up on the information counter, and we'll be in touch with details.



News from our Eastern North Dakota Synod

Bishop Terry Brandt has accepted a new call as Vice President of Advancement at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. His last day serving as Bishop is January 14th. A Farewell and Thank You Celebration will be held Thursday, January 9th with a 1:00 pm Service of Sending and Open House from 1:30-3:30 pm.

Reverend Larry Wohlrabe (former Bishop of the Northwest Minnesota Synod) has been appointed by the Synod Council as Interim Bishop. He will begin his service on January 15 and serve among us until the bishop-elect takes office on September 1st, 2020. The new bishop will be elected at the Synod Assembly in June.

Thank you for your prayers in this process.

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No Youth Director Office Hours No Kids for Christ No Confirmation	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	6 No Youth Director Office Hours Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	7	8 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	13 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	14	15 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	20 No Youth Director Office Hours No Senior High Lunch	21	22 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	23 Dinner and Devotions for 11th and 12th graders at 12:15pm!	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	27 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	28	29 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm	30	31	1
2 Youth "Soup"er Bowl Sunday Lunch and Fundraiser at noon!						

Pre K - 6th Grade News!

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Our Sunday School youth put on a wonderful Christmas program and have enjoyed a few weeks of Christmas vacation. Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 5th.
- **KIDS FOR CHRIST** Students in grades K-6 gather after school each Wednesday until 5pm. New students are welcome to join us! We're having a great time growing together in faith all while learning how to be an amazing contributor to our community! Please note, there will be no Kids for Christ on Wednesday, Jan 1!
- **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!

Opportunity for All!

- **"SOUP"ER BOWL SUNDAY** will be held Sunday, **February 2nd** after the 11am worship service. Enjoy a soup and sandwich lunch in the large dining room for a free will donation. Half of the money collected will go to the Barnes County Food Pantry and the other half will help send our youth on their summer mission trip! Enjoy your lunch here, or, take it to go! Youth—Sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to help out with this event as a servant activity or to help raise money for your share of the trip!

Jr & Sr High Update!

- **CONFIRMATION** Confirmation classes are in full swing on Wednesday nights! We enjoy supper together at 6:00pm and class from 6:30-8:00pm. Please note, there will be no confirmation class on Wed, January 1st. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **SENIOR HIGH LUNCH** We are seeing some awesome kids and having a BLAST every week! We enjoy lunch, prayer, and devotion each Monday that there is school during the school year. As of right now we are seeing about 55-60 kids a week! So awesome! Friends are always welcome! Please note, there will be no Senior High Lunch on Monday, January 20th as there is no school that day.
- **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** We are having a blast with our 10-12th grade youth group! This group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in January (the 8th and 22nd) from 7:30-8:30pm in the new youth room. We have some great discussion, time to relax and hang out together, play games, 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kyla.
- **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, January 23rd 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 two adult chaperones, so if you are interested, let Kyla know.

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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 19 at 9:40 am in the Small Dining Room. Learn about the 2020 Foundation Giving and how gifts to the Foundation can make a lasting impact.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting is

Sunday, January 26 at 9:40 am in the sanctuary. Hear updates on the church finances and have a chance to provide input on future opportunities. Annual reports highlighting ministries of the congregation will be available at least one week before the meeting. If you've flown south for the winter and wish get a copy of the report emailed to you, make a request through emailing oslcvalleycity@msn.com.

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, sharing expertise.

Thanks for your 2019 support. Let's fill up the calendar in 2020!

Coming in 2020...



Online & Credit Card giving options.

We are stepping our way into the 21st Century. In 2020, we'll be setting up ways for you to give one time or reoccurring gifts through your credit card. Watch for more information in the months to come!

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. This pastor led study explores a variety of different themes. Come when you can.

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

Bible Book Club meets monthly. Join us January 14 at 1:00 pm in the Gathering Room for conversation on the Gospel of Matthew. Read the book in advance or simply come and sit in on the conversation.

Watch for more opportunities in 2020!

Have you heard about...

Each month in 2020, watch the newsletter for a website, book, or podcast recommendation from one of your pastors. We pray these resources might help you grow in faith!



<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/>

From the website: The Bible is one unified story that leads to Jesus, but we don't always treat it that way. At The Bible Project, we make animated videos that explore the books and themes of the Bible. Explore all of our free Bible videos and resources by book, theme, or series here.

What Pastor Emmy says about it: I especially like the videos that provide summaries of whole books in the Bible. Sometimes, reading the Bible can feel overwhelming. These videos help me to understand the overall themes and flow in books of the Bible, as I prepare to read it.



As a new year begins, it's natural to look back on the year that was and the year that lies ahead.

This past year was one that was full of conversation, discernment, reflection, and prayer as we as a church looked forward to the structural and systematic changes needed in the future. It's almost a certainty that the coming year will hold much of the same thing.

At the beginning of last year, Pr. Emmy and I centered our discussion and communication on **"God's Wide Welcome"**, inviting us all to think more broadly about what it means to be a welcoming place in worship, in our outreach, in our activities, in our building, and in everything that we do as disciples of Christ. The idea to focus on welcome came from taking a closer look at the mission statement we already claim here at Our Savior's: 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.

What came of that focus was fruitful conversation and discussion, and even some tangible changes to our ministry and vision, including welcoming the Community Closet to our building and taking steps to create focal core value statements that root our faith in action:

We value All Generations
We value Neighbors near and far
We value Sharing
We value Rejoicing and Weeping Together

Having done the hard work of lifting up what is central to us here at Our Savior's, what ways we can be more welcoming, we cannot lose sight of our larger call as people of God.

As we look to the year ahead, amidst all of the conversation about roofs and budgets sure to come, it is important to remember that increasing our capacity for mission is not solely about knocking out walls and reconfiguring underutilized space in our building, but about intentionally focusing on the ways our faith is active, lived, and experienced in our day to day lives.

As we strive to be a family of believers where there are life changing relationships with God, one another, and the world, I would invite us this year to focus on **"Growing in Faith"**. After all, we welcome all to share Christ's love, **to grow in faith**, and to live a life of service glorifying God.

So around the church this year, we will challenge ourselves to grow and expand our understanding of what it means to live as people of faith in this ever changing world. We will challenge ourselves to think about the ways we increase our capacity through mission not just through structure, but by being intentional about asking the tough questions, reading books, participating in worship, diving into scripture again, joining a bible study (or starting your own!), having conversation, making new friends, diversifying the points of view you listen to, looking outside of the church, reaching out to the neighbor and the other in love, and praying.

We will challenge ourselves to continue to live into the work God calls us to for the sake of the world.

Blessings on your growth and journey this year and always...

Pastor Kyle