

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

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January 2021



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 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office & Building Closed	2 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
3 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook Live 11:00am Radio Broadcast	4	5 9:00am Ministerial	6 No Kids for Christ 6:30pm 7th Grade Confirmation	7	8	9 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
10 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 10:00am In Person Worship-Holy Communion 11:00am Radio Broadcast	11	12 9:30am Text Study 11:00am Holy Communion	13 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00pm Council	14	15 Newsletters due	16 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
17 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am In Person Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	18	19 9:00am Foundation Annual Meeting 9:30am Text Study	20 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation	21	22	23 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
24 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am In Person Worship-Holy Communion 10:30am Annual Meeting Tech check for Annual Meeting 11:00am Radio Broadcast	25	26 9:30am Text Study 11:00am Holy Communion	27 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm 7, 8, 9th Grade Confirmation-Zoom	28 9:30am Pastor's Conference-Zoom	29	30 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
31 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am In Person Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting-online & In Person 11:00am Radio Broadcast						

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 No Youth Director Office Hours Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a treat from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)	6 No Youth Director Office Hours No Kids for Christ Confirmation—7th Graders 6:30-8:00pm No Senior High Youth Group	7	8	9
10	11	12 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a treat from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)	13 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm Kids for Christ 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation—8th Graders 6:30-8:00pm	14	15	16
17	18	19 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a treat from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)	20 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm Kids for Christ 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation—9th Graders 6:30-8:00pm Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	21	22	23
24	25	26 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a treat from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)	27 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm Kids for Christ 3:30-5:00pm Confirmation via Zoom for those who were not in attendance on their scheduled night 6:30-8:00pm	28	29	30
31						

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 Education Committee has been meeting and is working on a way to provide Sunday School so please register online if you wish for your children to be included in that planning process as they need to know numbers for each class. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact SS Superintendent, Katie Sather at oslsundayschool@outlook.com.
- **KIDS FOR CHRIST** At this time, we are planning to be back in person after the New Year! A Sign Up Genius will be emailed to all families. Please sign up for the weeks you plan to attend as there will continue to be a limit of 15 youth per week. Please note: There will be no Kids for Christ on January 6th. As always, this is subject to change, but I'm really excited to see these amazing kids again!

Jr & Sr High

- **CONFIRMATION** Confirmation will continue to meet in small groups each week. 7th grade will meet on the 1st Wednesday, 8th grade on the 2nd Wednesday, and 9th grade on the 3rd Wednesday. Anyone who was unable to attend on their scheduled night will meet via Zoom on the 4th Wednesday. Zoom meeting information will be emailed out to families closer to that time. Youth should also be working on their At Home Activities each month as well as their sermon notes. Links to both of these can be found on the church website. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **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 18 boxes of brownie mix are being made and we are serving more than 135 youth each week! 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** Senior High Youth Group will not be meeting on January 6th, but we are planning to meet again in person on January 20th from 7:30-8:30pm! There will be a limit of 15 youth so please let Kyla know if you plan to attend!

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



As we step into the new year, it's time to take a breath. It's time to breathe in Holy Spirit and listen for God's call in our lives. Join us for worship as we "Take a Breath" in this church season of Epiphany. We'll hear stories of Jesus, who reaches into lives to give meaning, healing, and love.

January 10th | Come to the Water: Baptism of Our Lord

January 17 | Jesus knows.

January 24 | Jesus calls.

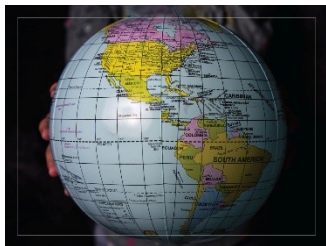
January 31 | Jesus sets free.

February 7 | Jesus lifts up.

Worship from Home continues at 8:30 am on Facebook Live and at 11:00 am on KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM. The services is also available anytime after noon on "OSLC Valley City" YouTube Channel.

If worshipping from home is not working for you, a **Sunday in-person worship opportunity will resume on Sunday, January 10th at 10:00 am.** Holy Communion will be shared on January 10th & 24th.

A short service of Holy Communion will be held on Tuesdays, January 12th & 26th at 11:00 am. These will be a short gathering (about 15 minutes) for prayer and to share Holy Communion.



The 2021 Missionary Calendar is now available for you to claim your dates.

Your support of \$25 dollars a day allow our congregation to support ELCA missionaries Willie and Anne Langdji, who serve as regional representatives in West Africa, and Global Health Ministries.

OSLC Foundation Annual Meeting

The Our Savior's Lutheran Church Foundation Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 9:00 am in the Small Dining Room. The congregation is invited to attend and participate in the business of our Foundation.

OSLC Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31st at 10:30 a.m.

You can attend the meeting either in person or online through Zoom.

If you wish to attend through Zoom, you will need to register. The registration link will be sent out in our weekly emails in January. You may also email rev.emmy@gmail.com to request a registration link.

If you are new to Zoom, you are invited to participate in a "Tech Check Session" on Sunday, January 24th at 10:30 am. The link to register for this will also be sent out in our weekly emails in January. You may also email rev.emmy@gmail.com to request a registration link.

We hope you'll be able to carve out some time to join us for this important meeting in the life our congregation. A minimum of 50 attendees, either online or in-person, are needed to conduct our business.



January Bible Reading Challenge

During the month of January, you are invited to read the Gospel of Mark. If you read one chapter a day, you could read the whole story of Jesus' life in just over 2 weeks. In 2021, many of our Sunday Gospel readings from Mark. So, this is a great way to take a deep dive into the story. Will you join the challenge?

Standing at the Gates of the New Year

A prayer by Joyce Rupp

Sacred Mystery,
Waiting on the threshold
of this new year,
You open the gates
and beckon to me:

“Come! Come!

Be not wary of what waits you
as you enter the unknown terrain,
be not doubtful of your ability
to grow from its joys and sorrows.

For I am with you.
I will be your Guide.
I will be your Protector.
You will never be alone.”

Guardian of this new year,
I set aside my fears, worries, concerns.
I open my life to mystery, to beauty,
to hospitality, to questions,
to the endless opportunity
of discovering you in my relationships,
and to all the silent wisps of wonder
that will draw my to your heart.

I welcome your unfailing Presence
and walk with hope into this new year.



We “pant” express enough thanks to all who donated so generously to the flat roof project in 2020. We are over half-way to collecting our original goal. This was an essential item to get checked off the “to do” list, as we seek to be good stewards of this building. Though a few finishing touches remain, we are told the roof is sealed up and ready for winter. Repairs to the water damage that occurred inside the building were underway in December.

Thanks for your extra support of this project, above and beyond your regular offerings.



Notice Beauty

As we begin the new year, many choose to start a new habit or practice as the calendar changes. This year, why not try a focus on beauty? To recognize beautiful things requires a willingness to slow down and take a look around. See where you find beauty this year, be it in nature or elsewhere. Here are some spiritual practices that focus on beauty.

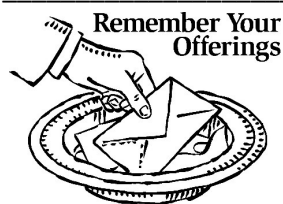
Noticing: Take a picture per day (either a physical picture, or a picture in your mind) of something beautiful. Maybe it's something you see in the world around you that is “classically” beautiful (like a flower, or a sunset.) Maybe you'll notice something beautiful that you've overlooked time and again.

Creating: How can you add beauty to the world? Do you paint, or draw, or sing? Think about creating something of beauty, just because you can.

Appreciating: When you see, hear, taste, touch, or smell something beautiful, take a moment to say “Thank you” to God for it.

Memory Verse: *God has made everything beautiful in its time.* Ecclesiastes 3:11

Faith Practice Spotlight: Journaling. This year, consider making a beauty journal. In it, you can record all of the thing you *notice*, *create*, or *appreciate* that are beautiful. Keep the journal for a whole year, and use it for reflection. There is beauty all around.



Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Your generosity allows us to move forward boldly our mission of welcoming all to share Christ's love, grow in faith, and live a life of service glorifying God.

Give online at www.oursaviorsvc.org by clicking the blue GIVE button.

Mail offerings to the church at 138 3rd St NW, Valley City, ND 58072.



Highlights from the December Congregation Council Meeting

The Council met via Zoom.

Flat Roof: Most of the work is completed. The flashing and ladder remain to be completed. We are still in conversation with the roofing company about water damage inside the building during the construction process.

Farm Fund: The Council authorized \$67,000 in gifts from our farm income this year. Recipients include: Eastern North Dakota Synod, Red Willow Bible Camp, Salvation Army, Barnes County Food Pantry, Lutheran Social Services, Great Plains Food Bank, Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church, VCPS Access for All, UND-NDSU Campus Ministries, Barnes County Transportations Services, and our local Senior Prescriptions Assistance Program.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be on January 31, 2021 at 10:30am. Meeting will be both in-person and virtual, which is authorized in the Constitution. Need a total of 50 persons in attendance for quorum.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee has begun their work in filling council and committee positions for 2021.

Education: The plan is to resume Sunday School beginning January 10th. Details will be worked out to follow guidelines regarding distancing and masks. Communication will be provided to families, as plans are made.

Property Committee: The Council approved the purchase of a new copier and authorized the redoing the wood floor in the choir practice room.

Transitions in the Congregation:

Deaths: Violet Quick-non member, Harland Haugen-member, Eugene (Gene) Heise-member, Darlene Wind-
ingland-member.

New Members: Bill Corwin.

A draft of the full meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside of the church 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.

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.

For Rent:

Unfurnished, ~950 square feet, 2nd floor apartment with hot water & heat included, two bedroom (carpet), hardwood floor hallway/living room, stove, fridge, shared washer and dryer, private entrance with off street parking. (No pets or smoking)
Call Bobby Koepplin 701-840-0250.

Sharayah and I would just like to thank all of you for the kind words, cards, and recipes that you shared in celebration of our wedding. We are also grateful for all who gave above and beyond to WELCA in support of their mission and ministry. It has been a fun, strange, and life-changing year, and we're so lucky to have folks like you to share this adventure with. We look forward to gathering safely again and maybe even celebrating an anniversary in the spring. Until then, we wish you God's peace and good health

- Kyle



Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed life into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. -Genesis 2:7

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." – John 20:21-22

Breath is a powerful thing. Breath is the very essence of life itself. To breathe is to have life. The Bible reminds us that breathe comes as a gift from God. In the very beginning, God breathed life into being. In one of Jesus' first resurrection appearances to the disciples, he breathes the life-giving power of Holy Spirit upon them.

Breath is a powerful thing. The very act of paying attention to our breathing and taking even three deep breathes in and out (in and out) (in and out) can reset our body. Deep breathing causes a physical reaction in our body. It actually helps relieve the stress and tension that we carry.

Breath is a powerful thing, and I have come to see paying attention to my breathing as a form of prayer. No extra tools needed. I think about breathing in the love of God and breathing out the burdens that weigh me down. In and out. Peace and calm fill me. Worry and fear leave me.

The Gospels tell us that from time to time, Jesus would step away from the crowds to find a quiet place to rest and pray. I imagine him taking deep breaths. Breathing in the love of God. Breathing out the pain and distress that he had taken on. Perhaps, in those moments, he even prayed the prayer he'd speak just before he took his last breath: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

As we step into a new year, Pastor Kyle and I hope that in our times of worship and devotion, you might be given an opportunity to "Take a Breath." As we share familiar liturgy and hymns, as we hear beautiful stories of Jesus, and as we pray, may we remember that we are connected to the one who breathed life into our being. May we remember that Jesus continues to breathe Holy Spirit upon us, bringing forgiveness, renewal, and life.

A Prayer for When I'm Out of My Routine by Traci Smith www.traci-smith.com

Some days are topsy turvy
Some days are not what I was expecting
On those days I stop
I breathe in
I breathe out
I take a break and feel the Holy Spirit guide me.

Grace and peace to you, Pastor Emmy