

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

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Valley City, ND  
Permit #39

January 2022



**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 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	
2 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Choir rehearsal 11:00am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	3 No Sr. High Lunch	4 9:00am Good Samaritans Quilters 9:30am Ministerial	5 9:30am Bible Study 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Youth Gathering Time 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Sr. High Youth Group	6 1:00pm Prayer & Communion	7	8 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
9 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	10 Sr. High Lunch 11:15 –9th grade 12:05pm- 10-12th grade	11 9:00am Good Samaritans Quilters 9:30am Text Study 1:00pm Gather	12 9:30am Bible Study 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Youth Gathering Time 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	13	14	15 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
16 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School, Loving Neighbors Better 11:00am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	17 No Sr. High Lunch	18 9:00am Good Samaritans Quilters 9:30am Text Study 12:10pm Prayer for Christian Unity- St. Catherine's	19 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Prayer for Christian unity-New Life Assembly 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm Confirmation	20 12:10pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity-Our Savior's	21	22 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
23 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:40am Foundation Annual Meeting 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Choir rehearsal 11:00am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	24 Sr. High Lunch 11:15 –9th grade 12:05pm- 10-12th grade	25 9:00am Good Samaritans Quilters 9:30am Text Study 3:00pm Bible Book Club-Jude	26 9:30am Bible Study 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Youth Gathering Time 6:30pm Confirmation	27 9:30am Pastor's Conference	28	29 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
30 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:40am Congregational Annual Meeting 9:45am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	31 Sr. High Lunch 11:15 –9th grade 12:05pm- 10-12th grade					

# January 2022 OSLC Youth Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy New Year!
2 No Sunday School	3 No Senior High Lunch	4 No Youth Director Office Hours	5 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15 – 5pm Confirmation Gathering Time 6:00-6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am Baptism of Our Lord Sunday 11am	10 Senior High Lunch 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade 11:15am 10-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade 12:05pm	11 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	12 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15 – 5pm Confirmation Gathering Time 6:00-6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	17 No School No Senior High Lunch	18 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	19 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15 – 5pm Confirmation Gathering Time 6:00-6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	24 Senior High Lunch 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade 11:15am 10-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade 12:05pm	25 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	26 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15 – 5pm Confirmation Gathering Time 6:00-6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	31 Senior High Lunch 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade 11:15am 10-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade 12:05pm					

# Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume on January 9<sup>th</sup> and runs from 9:45-10:45am each week. Sunday School is open to students in Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The kids put on a wonderful Christmas program on December 12<sup>th</sup>! If you missed it, feel free to check it out on our Facebook page! Contact Katie Sather, SS Superintendent, with any questions at [oslcsundayschool@outlook.com](mailto:oslcsundayschool@outlook.com).

## KIDS FOR CHRIST

Youth in grades K-6 are welcome and invited to join us at Kids for Christ each Wednesday after school until 5pm. Friends welcome! You are responsible for transportation. Snacks are always provided. Contact Kyla for more information or to sign up to attend.

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

All who were baptized in 2021 will be recognized at the 11am worship service on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and will be gifted a Bible or devotional. We look forward to celebrating with you!

# Jr & Sr High

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation students in grades 7-9 meet on Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm. 6:00 – 6:30pm is an optional gathering time for youth to hang out together in the youth room and enjoy some snacks. Confirmation class runs from 6:30-8:00pm. We will meet at Our Savior's each week. If you have any questions regarding our confirmation program, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Emmy or Pastor Kyle.

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Senior High Youth Group consists of students in 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade and friends are always welcome! We typically meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 7:30-8:30pm at the church in the youth room. If the dates or times change, notification is sent through the Remind App. Want those updates? [Simply text the message @oslcsyhvg to the number 81010 and you will get all of the text reminders and updates regarding Senior High Youth Group!](#)

In January, we will meet on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

## SENIOR HIGH LUNCH

We typically have 70-80 youth joining us each week for Senior High Lunch! 9<sup>th</sup> graders come over at 11:15am and 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders come over at 12:05pm. It is wonderful to see so many of our youth and their friends each Monday for lunch, prayer, and fellowship together. Friends are always welcome!

My office hours are Tuesdays from 9:00 – 11:00am and Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00pm. However, please feel free to contact me anytime at [kylaoslcs@outlook.com](mailto:kylaoslcs@outlook.com) or 840-4540.

God's Blessings,  
Kyla Fetsch  
Director of Youth Ministry



## Updates from the December Council Meeting

**Redirection of LSS Giving:** With the unexpected closing of Lutheran Social Services in January of 2021, the council re-designated the \$1,000 in our budget for LSS to Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services.

### Building Project Updates:

- The Property Committee has solicited two bids for the Sanctuary Roof. There is an option to put roofing over the shingles at \$173,000 or take shingles off for \$193,000. The Property Committee will explore receiving another bid and move forward in cooperation with the Executive Team.
- Digital Boiler controls is on order.
- Security system needs and options are being explored by the property committee.
- New ceilings tiles are being secured for Gathering Room & main level bathrooms.
- There are no new bids on the west stair repair. The committee will be meeting with a local contractor to explore options.

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting for Our Savior's Lutheran Church has been set for Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 9:40 am in the Sanctuary.

**Farm Fund:** Special Farm Fund disbursement in the amount of \$80,000 were made by the council to support local and regional ministries.

**Chimes Replacement Gift:** A special donation designated for the sole purpose of repairing and replacing the chimes has been offered to the church. The church council agreed to receive this gift and move forward with this project.

**Appreciation for Pastors:** In follow up from correspondence, the council agreed that a bonus be in order for the pastors. Four days of vacation and a \$2,000 were approved for both pastors.

### Transitions in the Congregation:

**Deaths:** Don Beutler, Erna Anderson, Kenneth Lettenmaier, John Carl Hatcher, Vivian Rensby and Mick Pytlik



## 2021 Farm Fund Disbursements

In 1955, Mr. George Mason bequeathed Farm Land to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. His gift is one that keeps on giving, as each year the church council makes donations from the farm income.

### In addition to our standing commitments, the following donations were made in December:

Luther Seminary	\$10,000
Eastern ND Synod Holy Innovation Fund	\$10,000
Eastern ND Synod	\$10,000
Red Willow Ministries	\$12,000
South Central Transit	\$5,000
Barnes County Salvation Army	\$5,000
Barnes County Food Pantry	\$5,000
Great Plains Food Bank	\$5,000
Valley City Public Schools Access For All	\$7,000
Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church	\$4,000
UND/NDS Campus Ministries	\$1,000
Prescription Assistance Program	\$5,000
Abused Persons Outreach Center	\$4,000
The Neighborhood Church, Fargo	\$2,000
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	\$1,000
Churches United	\$2,000
Our Savior's Holy Innovation Project*	\$2,000

\*To be used at the discretion of the church council for special programming for our community.



# January Worship

*We have good news to share!  
Christ is born. The Living God is in our midst.  
Let's celebrate & grow in faith together.*

Gather in-person at 8:30 or 11:00 am  
Worship from home via Facebook Live at 8:30 am  
or the Radio Broadcast at 11:00 on KOVC 1490 AM

**January 2** - Christmas Worship Continues.  
Welcome in the new year by singing some favorite  
Christmas carols and looking to Jesus.

**January 9** - We'll hear the story of Jesus' baptism  
and remember our own. Bibles will be presented  
to those who have been baptized this past year.

**January 16** - What's the first miracle that Jesus  
performed? Find out the wild thing that his mom  
asked him to do!

**January 23** - Jesus Hometown Visit: Part One - He  
preaches a sermon. It seems to go pretty well.

**January 30** - Jesus Hometown Visit: Part Two - His  
neighbors respond. It doesn't go so great.



## Prayer & Communion Thursday, January 6 | 1:00 pm

Gather for a short service of Prayer & Communion  
on Thursday, January 6th. On this Day of Epiphany,  
we'll remember the wise ones who followed a star  
to visit the newborn king. Come and receive the  
gift offered in Communion on this day.

There will be ample room for physical distancing  
and masks will be encouraged at this service.

## CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

**Our Savior's Lutheran Foundation Annual Meeting is  
Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 9:40 am in the Small Dining  
Room.** Come and learn about the work of the Church  
Foundation and the asset it is to our ministry. All  
members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church Congregation Annual  
Meeting is Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 9:40 am in  
the sanctuary.** Celebrate and get updates about our  
ministry together. The congregation approves a financial  
ministry plan for the year and elect committee members.  
A quorum of 50 people is needed for this meeting. All  
who attend will have the chance to win a surprise prize!  
(Yes. That is a bribe). The plan is for the meeting to be  
made available on our church Youtube Channel, so that  
those who cannot attend in person have the opportunity  
to stay connected.



**Items for the Abused Person's Outreach Center** will be  
collected at Our Savior's Lutheran Church this month.  
You are invited to donate the following items:

- Toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies (ex: Lysol/disinfectant spray, toilet brush, gloves)
- Paper Towels
- Band-aids
- Kleenex

Thanks for your support!



## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



Coffee Fellowship is held on Sunday mornings between services in the Gathering Room. All are welcome to come, sit a spell, and enjoy conversation.

Volunteers to host are needed. Hosts are responsible for putting coffee on, providing a treat for up to 50 people, serving from 9:30-11:00 am, and clean up. Don't know how to make the coffee? We'd be happy to teach you! Sign up on the link at our website: [www.oursaviorsvc.org](http://www.oursaviorsvc.org).



The New Missionary Calendar is up! For \$25 a day you can show your support of our Missionaries Willie and Anne Langdji, who support the work of the Lutheran Church in Western Africa. They walk alongside of medical centers, schools, churches, food ministries to support and encourage local efforts. The calendar also supports the work of Global Health Ministries that ships medical supplies and supports medical facilities all over the globe.

Sign up on the calendar and earmark your donation for "Missionary Calendar."

Please considering holding Willie & Anne, Global Health Ministries, and our partner church in the Central African Republic in regular prayer. We are church TOGETHER!

## Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

## Contact Information

Church Office

845-1328

[oslcvalleycity@msn.com](mailto:oslcvalleycity@msn.com)

Pastor Emmy Swedlund

Cell – (701)552-2419

[rev.emmy@gmail.com](mailto:rev.emmy@gmail.com)

Pastor Kyle Symanski

Cell - (708)476-8712 (YES! It's 708)

[klsymanski@gmail.com](mailto:klsymanski@gmail.com)

Youth Director, Kyla Festch

Cell—840-4540

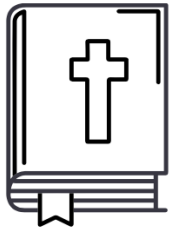
[kylaoslc@outlook.com](mailto:kylaoslc@outlook.com)

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

## Loving Neighbors Better

In our stated mission, Our Savior's Lutheran Church strives to **welcome all to share Christ's love, grow in faith, and live a life of service glorifying God.** Over the course of 2021, your church leadership was intentional about discernment, reflection, and prayer on the wide topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and what it means to welcome all to share Christ's love. Throughout 2022, we are committed to growing in our faith together as a congregation on the topic of what it means to "Love Neighbors Better".

**Join us for conversation on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. (between services) in the church library for an open and honest conversation about how we as a congregation and community might love neighbors better.** This meeting will serve as a starting point for other conversations and events to be held throughout the year.



# January Bible Study Opportunities

## Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

This month, Wednesday morning bible study will begin their journey through "The Greatest Story". Hear, learn, and grow through the story of Jesus from his birth to the cross.

## Men's Bible Fellowship

Saturday Mornings at 7:30 a. m.

Begin your weekend with prayer and conversation. Read and reflect on God's work one book of the bible at a time.

## GATHER Women's Study

Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Spend part of your afternoon with the new and exciting bible study group. Watch a video of Jesus' life from the "Chosen" series and stay for reflection and refreshments.

## Bible Book Club – "Jude"

Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

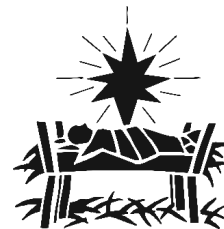
Read through the book of Jude on your own time during the month (or don't!) and come for conversation and questions on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **A word of thanks from the staff...**

Thanks for the many Christmas greetings and goodies shared with us. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and brings smiles to our faces. We love being church together with each of you!

## **Radio Broadcast Dates for 2022 are available.**

Sponsor a broadcast in honor or memory of someone or just because. Broadcast is \$100. Contact the church office at 845-1328 to reserve a date.



## **Gather in Prayer: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

"We saw the star in the East,  
and came to worship Him"

-Matthew 2:2

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was selected by the Middle East Council of Churches and originates from the churches in Lebanon. Present times in Lebanon are extremely difficult and economically disastrous. All this combined with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the situation quite stressful. The power of prayer in solidarity with those who suffer is a demonstration of Christian unity and a sign of communion.

The theme, taken from the second chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, is the Epiphany. Each year in January, the Church recalls the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, highlighting God's invitation to all of humanity to a new covenant in the Incarnation of Christ.

Join us for a short service of prayer:

12:10-12:30 pm

Tuesday, January 18 – St. Catherine's Catholic Church

Wednesday, January 19 – New Life Assembly of God Church

Thursday, January 20 – Our Savior's Lutheran Church



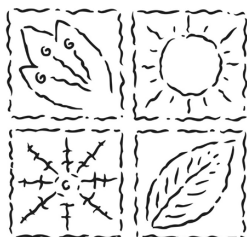
**A Prayer for the New Year**  
**"Occupy our calendars"**

By Walter Brueggemann  
In Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth  
Augsburg Fortress © 2003

Our times are in your hands:  
But we count our times for us;  
We count our days and fill them with us;  
We count our weeks and fill them with our busyness;  
We count our years and fill them with our fears.

And then caught up short with your claim,  
Our times are in your hands!

Take our times, times of love and times of weariness,  
Take them all, bless them and break them,  
Give them to us again,  
Slow paced and eager,  
Fixed in your readiness for neighbor.  
Occupy our calendars,  
Flood us with itsy-bitsy daily *kairoi* [moment],  
In the name of your enfleshed *Kairos* [Moment]. Amen.



**FOR EVERYTHING THERE  
IS A SEASON, A TIME  
FOR EVERY ACTIVITY  
UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT



**Thank you for all the ways you continue to support the mission and ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.** Your glad and generous hearts ensure that we are able to step faithfully and fully into God's work in this world. Your ongoing gifts to our general fund and above & beyond gifts to our Growing in Grace Appeal are so appreciated.

1. Share your offerings on Sunday mornings in the plate located in the rear of sanctuary.
2. Visit [oursaviorsvc.org](https://oursaviorsvc.org) and click "Give" to make a recurring or one time gift.
3. Download the "GivePlus" app (from Vanco Services) from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can either set up an account or give as a guest. This is a fast and easy way to give safely and securely.



**THANK YOU!**  
**\$829,930**

Committed as pledges to our Growing in Grace Capital Appeal from 116 households as of 12/20/2021

We are Growing in Grace Together! Thank you for your generous response to our Capital Appeal. Your commitments mean that Our Savior's Lutheran Church can boldly step into the future, tending to our building needs and making improvements to our facility. Pledge cards can still be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office. Thank you!

## I'm curious...

I'm curious: What are you curious about? To be curious is to have a desire to learn or know more about something or someone. As we step into this new year, what are you curious about? I've started my list below. Next to it is a spot for you to start making your own:

### Pastor Emmy's Curiosity List

1. What are the people of Our Savior's curious about?
2. How does needle felting work?
3. What the most delicious way to brew a cup of coffee?
4. Is there a way to keep my office efficiently organized?
5. What do I need to know raising a daughter?
6. What else don't I know about the story of African American people in this country?
7. Classical Music/Composers

### Your Curiosity List

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

It's said that curiosity killed the cat, but for me curiosity and faith go hand in hand. Being curious means that you realize that you don't have everything figured out – that there is more than just what you know. Likewise, being faithful means that you realize that you don't have everything figured out – that you place your trust in what we cannot see. Curiosity is looking at this world with a sense of wonder, possibility, and openness.

In Luke 18:17, Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." One of the characteristics I love about children is their curiosity. As adults, we easily take things for granted, but children are still on a quest to figure out the whys and hows of this world. Questions abound: What happens to the water after it goes down the bathtub drain? Why do I have to wear shoes at the restaurant? Why don't the trees have leaves on them? To receive the kingdom of God as a little child is to live with such curiosity about the world around us.

Last year, at this time of year, we invited you to choose a "star" word – we even sent them to households in our congregation. Do you remember what your word was? The words were meant to inspire you, giving you purpose and direction for the year. This year, instead of star words, I'd invite you to choose one or two things that you are curious about and commit to exploring those areas. Search the internet (checking for reliable resources!), go the library and get a book or video, ask around to see if there might be an expert or someone who might know more than you about the topic. Curiosity isn't only for children. Curiosity allows us to live more deeply, to live life that really is life.

Perhaps our call (or part of our call) as church in 2022, is to walk together in our curiosity. I really would like to know what you are curious about! Please mention it to me (Pastor Emmy, did you know I'm curious about....) or drop me an email. Perhaps there are ways we can explore some of those wonderings together. We are called to rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and...maybe be curious with those who are curious!

With gratitude from a curious pastor,  
Pr. Emmy