

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

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**September 2022**



# **OUR SAVIOR'S**

## **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP PATTERN:**  
8:30 A.M. and 10:30 a.m.

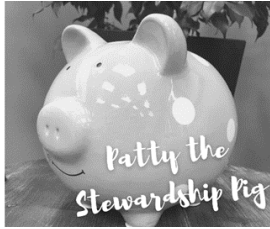
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**Coffee Fellowship - 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School - 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.**

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
4 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	5 Office Closed	6 9:00am Ministerial 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	7 9:30am Bible Study	8	9	10 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
11 <b>Rally Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:30am Sunday School, Choir 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast 11:30-1:00pm Pastor Emmy Farewell Open House	12 11:15-12:15 Sr. High Lunch	13 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	14 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Meeting at Faith 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	15	16	17 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
18 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:30am Sunday School, Choir 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	19 11:15-12:15 Sr. High Lunch	20 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	21 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation at Faith Lutheran	22	23	24 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
25 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:30am Sunday School, Choir 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast 3:00pm-6:00pm Synod Event-OSLC-meet the Bishop	26 11:15-12:15 Sr. High Lunch	27 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	28 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation at Faith Lutheran	29	30	



### Stewardship Spotlight

On Sunday, September 11th, Patty the Stewardship Pig will make her second appearance in the back of the church collecting extra donations for the general fund. Patty and the Stewardship Committee want to keep the general fund on track while embracing the joy of giving. If we can raise enough money to meet our budget, the rest of the funds will go to the Bridges Backpack Program! Let's make Rally Sunday a squeal and give Patty a little extra money on September 11<sup>th</sup>! We can't wait to see you!

### Snacks for Youth activities

Donations of non-perishable snack and drink items (chips, cookies, prepackaged goodies, water bottles, juice, etc...) are welcome during the month of September to help stock our shelves for youth activities throughout the year. You can drop off items at the church during the week or on Sunday mornings. Be in touch with Pr. Kyle if you have any questions. Thanks for your glad and generous hearts.



Mark your calendar...

Gather for a special worship on November 6 as Our Savior's Lutheran Church celebrates 140 years of ministry. Pastor Charles Plaster, who served as a pastor at Our Savior's from 1978-1999, will be our special guest preacher that day. You won't want to miss this special day!

**Church Office Hours** Monday – Friday

| 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Church Building Hours** Monday – Friday

| 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday – Closed

Sunday 8:00 am – Noon

Contact Information Church

Office 845-1328

oursaviorsvc@outlook.com

Pastor Emmy Swedlund Cell – (701)552-2419

rev.emmy@gmail.com

Pastor Kyle Symanski Cell - (708)476-8712

klsymanski@gmail.com

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



### Lutheran World Relief School Kits!

The need is always great, but this year the pandemic affected the normal process for collection and delivery, plus the explosion in Beirut destroyed some of the parcels already on the way to those in need.

WELCA is again asking for your support by donating supplies to fill school bags.

Each school kit consists of:

- four 70-sheet notebooks
- 1 box of 16 or 24 ct. crayons
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 ruler
- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- 5 unsharpened pencils
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens
- one 2 1/2" eraser

School supplies go on sale about this time of year, so it is a wonderful time to get the best deals. There is a drop-off in the hallway for your donations.

Thank you in advance for your donations and for your ongoing support of Lutheran World Relief.

## Updates from August Council Meeting

**Building Projects:** Work has begun on the roofing project over the sanctuary. New windows for the apartments have arrived. Installation of windows and west step project is anticipated to be done yet in 2023. Bids have been accepted for carpet installation in the gathering room. An egress window was installed at the Chautauqua Parsonage. Now, drywall and new carpet is waiting to be done.

**Youth Director Position:** The Council accepted a proposal to hire Wendi Wilmes to assist with youth programming, including Confirmation, Senior High Lunch, and other events for the 2022-2023 academic year. Wendi serves as youth director at Faith Lutheran Church. This will be a sort of “holy experiment” to explore how joint youth ministry efforts might be possible in the community. Pastor Kyle will also be assisting with senior high lunches. There will be no Kids for Christ this year at Our Savior’s.

**Library Committee:** There has not been an active library committee at the church for many years. A gathering is to be held on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the library and how to move forward with remaining funds in the Library Account.

**Standard Worship Times:** The Council agreed that worship in September-May will resume to two worship times, now at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Sunday School will shift up time accordingly.

**Senior Pastor Resignation:** Pastor Emmy Swedlund has submitted her letter of resignation. Her last Sunday will be September 11<sup>th</sup> and last day of employment, using remaining vacation time, will be September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Deaths:** Shirley Weight (non-member), Vicky Royse, Beatrice Peterson (non-member)

**Baptisms:** Liam Von Bank, Grayson Compson

**Wedding:** Daniel Biggers & Jenna Pommerer



**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.



During September, donations of NEW socks and underwear of ALL sizes can be placed in the bin in the back of the sanctuary. All items will be shared through the Community Closet. Join in remembering the legacy of Eileen Maresh through sharing in this project.

As a reminder, all other donations for the Community Closet should be arranged through Kalyn at 840-8850.

## Connect with us:



@OurSaviorsValleyCity



@oursaviorsvcnd

Be sure to stay up to date with all the most current OSLC information and updates by connecting with us on our website, [oursaviorsvc.org](https://oursaviorsvc.org), and by following us on our social media pages. On Facebook, @OurSaviorsValleyCity, and on now on TikTok, @oursaviorsvcnd.

# Loving Neighbors Better



Every culture pays special attention to the children in its care. Injury and harm done to the young impacts all generations. In the past year, we have heard news about the American Indian children who were sent away to boarding schools and died there without being returned to their families. These sins are part our nation's history. Following last year's news, the American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association (AIANLA) within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) issued a letter on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North America. In part, it says:

"In honor and memory of the children of the First Nations people and of our Native children who never made it home, and for those still living the nightmare imposed on them as children of Canada and the United States we humbly ask our brothers and sisters of the church to hang an orange banner in the sanctuaries of your churches for 225 days. In remembrance and lament of each child that was thrown into those graves, and those yet to be discovered we honor each of their lives. The color orange is symbolic and came from the inspiration of a survivor of that era, Phyllis Webstad, who stated that when she was a 6-year-old girl arriving at a residential boarding school, she was stripped of her clothes which included a new orange t-shirt her grandmother had gifted her and was never given back."

Beginning in September, we at Our Savior's will hang orange banners in the back of the sanctuary for 225 days as a period of remembrance, repentance, and resolve to live in equitable partnership with neighbors of Native identity. Prior to them hanging at Our Savior's, these banners hung for 225 days at First Lutheran Church in New Rockford, and following their time at OSLC, will be passed on to another congregation in our Eastern North Dakota Synod. This is the work of being church together and loving neighbors better.

Read more about the ELCA's work with our native siblings here: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8120>

**Synod Connections Event + Sunday,  
September 25<sup>th</sup> + 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City**



**Eastern North Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth and the synod staff will travel here to Our Savior's for a chance to gather with you and church members from across the Jamestown Conference. This time will include scripture, prayer, and facilitated conversation. Supper and refreshments will be provided. Everyone is invited because we all have gifts to share. Like a basket is woven together, we can begin to weave together what we have and where we are going. Be in touch with Pr. Kyle if you have any questions.



## MISSIONARY CALENDAR

The 2022 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!



# OSLC YOUTH

**Welcome and Thank You to Wendi Wilmes!** We are excited to announce that Our Savior's has partnered with Faith Lutheran Youth Director Wendi Wilmes for the 2022/23 program year. In addition to her ongoing work and ministry at Faith Lutheran Church, Wendi will take on new leadership roles within the shared OSLC/Faith Confirmation program as well as during Senior High Lunch on alternating Mondays. She will also work to coordinate shared other youth programming opportunities between Faith and OSLC throughout the year. We are so grateful for her willingness to take on these additional responsibilities during this season of transition at Our Savior's and we are so excited for the year ahead!

## Pre-K - 6th

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School begins Sunday, September 11th and will run from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. each week. Sunday School is open to students grades Pre-K through 6th grade. Please contact Katie Sather with any questions at [oslcsundayschool@outlook.com](mailto:oslcsundayschool@outlook.com)

## 7th - 12th

**CONFIRMATION FOR 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> GRADERS:** We are excited to once again announce that we will be sharing a Confirmation Program with Faith Lutheran Church for the 2022/23 program year. This wonderful ministry is a great opportunity for us to be church together.

**A Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. hosted at Faith Lutheran Church (309 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE).** All 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders and at least one adult should plan to attend. There is A LOT of information given out at this meeting so please do your very best to be in attendance. We plan for this meeting to last no longer than 30 minutes.

In preparation for this meeting, all 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students are encouraged to sign up for our 2022/23 reminder texts. **Text @oslconf22 to the number 81010 to join.** See you all on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

**CONFIRMATION FOR 10TH GRADERS:** 10<sup>th</sup> graders should have received a letter and email laying out your final Confirmation requirements including mentor conversations and a Faith Reflection Project. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us on these dates below. Reach out to Pr. Kyle at [klsyman-ski@gmail.com](mailto:klsyman-ski@gmail.com) with questions.

**Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 – Confirmation Rehearsal and Photos – 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Confirmation Sunday – 10:30 a.m. Worship**

**SENIOR HIGH LUNCH:** Senior High Lunch is back starting Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> during your regular lunch times. Head on over for a home cooked meal! Be sure to bring your friends and spread the word. All are welcome!



## Notes From Your Treasurer\$\$

I was thinking about change this week as I searched the bottom of my purse for a couple of pennies. I seem to have change all over, on my dresser, in the beverage holder in my car, and sometimes on the floor of my car. Usually, I can come up with what I need to go through a drive-through for an ice cream cone or other treat.

The amount of my loose change is never the same, and the same is true for all the changes coming to Our Savior's this summer and fall. I attend our council meetings as a non-council member. My job is to report on our finances, answer questions, and follow their directions. I don't vote on motions. I don't offer an opinion unless I'm invited to do so.

Last week I watched with amazement at how hard the council members work to find good solutions for each situation that comes up. Good questions are asked. Some can be resolved on the spot and others are reviewed and set aside to think about and research until the next meeting. It is easy to see that they are thinking of the whole church body as they meet each month.

Happily, one thing that hasn't changed is our congregation's commitment to Our Savior's. Thank you for your gifts of time, money, and talent. You are an awesome group to work for!

Janet Brown



**Waldheim  
Meatballs & Lefse Dinner**

Waldheim Lutheran Church's Meatballs and Lefse Dinner is BACK! Stop by Waldheim in rural Kathryn on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for a Bazaar, Baked Goods, Raffle, and of course Meatballs and Lefse!



## Farewell and Godspeed Celebration and Open House

**Join us on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.** for an open house celebrating the ministry and service of Pr. Emmy, Searle, and Sigrid Swedlund at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and in Valley City. With tears of joy and sorrow, we give thanks to God for their time among us and offer prayers of blessing for their journey ahead. Treats and light lunch will be served. This event is open to the whole community. Please share this invitation with friends of the Swedlunds and Our Savior's.

**As part of both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worships on September 11<sup>th</sup>,** we will bid Farewell and Godspeed to Pr. Emmy as she ends her time at Our Savior's and looks to begin a new call at Faith Lutheran Church in Morris, MN. Pr. Emmy's final day in the office will be Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

# REMEMBER TO REMEMBER



Did you know...Our Savior's Lutheran Church celebrates 140 years of ministry this year! The beginnings of what was to become Our Savior's Lutheran Church can be traced as far back as 1878. The congregation was formally organized in 1882, under the Rev. Joahannes G.D. Bothne, along with forty-two members, twenty of whom were confirmed. I counted: From those early years until now, the congregation has been served by no less than 27 different pastors – only some of whose pictures appear in the “pastor gallery” in the overflow space.

Through the years, the congregation has called two different buildings home. In 1904, a white frame church building was erected. In 1939, construction of our current church building began, although the congregation didn't begin worshipping in our current sanctuary until September 25, 1948. Since then, there have been multiple building projects along the way.

Through it all, Our Savior's Lutheran Church has been a congregation that is rooted in community and in the love of Jesus Christ. There have been weddings, baptisms, confirmations, birthday celebrations, and funerals. There have been Bible studies, cantatas, Vacation Bible Schools, and committee meetings. There have been food drives, treasures sales, quilts & kits assembled, and meals eaten. I wonder how many cups of coffee and desserts have been enjoyed at Our Savior's over the years?!

To be a part of a church community is to be a part of something bigger than our selves. As Robin Wall Kimmerer says in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, when we participate in religious traditions, we “remember to remember.” When we come to worship or gather in Christian community, we remember to remember that we are loved. We remember to remember that God so loves this world. We remember to remember that the Creator of all continues to create new life, new possibilities, and new ways in our midst.

I count myself deeply privileged to be a part of the long legacy of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. As I said in my letter of resignation, you all have shaped me to my very core. There is so much I will remember about Our Savior's Lutheran Church. From the silly to the serious, we have shared so much life together. Along the way, we have remembered to remember that Jesus is who we fear, love, and trust above all.

Thanks for trusting me to be your pastor during these past 12 years of the 140 years of Our Savior's Lutheran Church's ministry. It's been a good, good run. I am so, so grateful. As I wrap up my time as your pastor this month, I do so trusting that God has been faithful and God will continue to be faithful. Our Savior's Lutheran Church has and will continue to be held in the arms of our Savior.

Let us pray this prayer, that we have so often prayed together:

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

With deepest gratitude,

Pr. Emmy Swedlund