

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

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December 2023

CHRISTMAS & ADVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday School Christmas Program
December 10th @ 10:30 a.m. Worship

Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt & Hot Cocoa Handout
December 20th from 5-7 p.m.

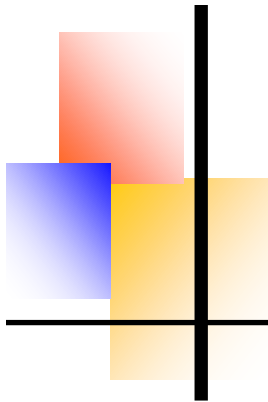
Casual Christmas Eve + December 24th
9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship + December 24th
3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship + December 25th
9:30 a.m.



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30am Men's Bible
3 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:30a m Sunday School 9:40am Christmas Story 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	4 11:15 & 11:50am Sr. High Lunch	5 9:00am Ministerial 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	6 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Christmas Music 6:30pm Confirmation@ OSLC 8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group	7	8 Annual Reports due	9 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
10 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:40am Christmas Story 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Program 11:00am Radio Broadcast	11 11:15 & 11:50am Sr. High Lunch	12 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	13 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Christmas Music No Confirmation 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	14	15	16 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
17 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School 9:40am Christmas Story 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	18 No Sr. High Lunch	19 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	20 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Christmas Music No Confirmation No Sr. High Youth Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Christmas light Scavenger Hunt	21	22	23 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
24 Christmas Eve No Sunday School 9:30am Casual Christmas 3:00pm Worship 5:00pm Worship	25 Christmas Day 9:30am Worship 9:30am Facebook Live	26 No Quilters No Text Study	27 No Bible Study No Confirmation	28	29	30 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
31 New Year's Eve No Sunday School 9:30am Worship						



OSLC YOUTH

Pre-K - 6th

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School will run from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. each week and is open to students in grades Pre-K through 6th grade. It's not too late to get registered! Contact Sunday School Superintendent, Katie Sather, with any questions at oslcsundayschool@outlook.com

December's Sunday School Schedule:

Dec. 3rd – Christmas Program Practice

Dec. 10th – Christmas Program during 10:30 a.m. Worship

Dec. 17th, 24th, & 31st – **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School will return on Sunday, January 7th.

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS: Classes during the month of December and January will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. A full calendar for the year can be found on our website oursaviorsvc.org. Make sure you are following through with your worship leadership opportunities and worship note expectations.

Important Dates:

Dec. 6th – Community Action Night

Dec. 13th, 20th, 27th & Jan. 3rd – **NO CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation will be returned on Wednesday, January 10th.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH (9th – 12th Grade): All Senior High Students, 9th – 12th grade, are welcome and invited to share in this free, home-cooked meal. Bring your friends and spread the word!

SHL will be on Holiday break Mondays Dec. 18th, 25th, & Jan. 1st, and will return on Monday, January 8th.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (10th – 12th Grade): Senior High Youth Group for grades 10th – 12th will generally gather on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8:00 p.m. in the OSLC Youth Room. To stay connected, join our Remind App group by texting @oslcsyhg to the number 81010. By signing up, you'll get reminders about when we're meeting, and the fun planned for that night.

Dear People of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

As we look to the celebration that is Christmas Day, we first walk the journey of Advent, marking the hope, love, peace, and joy that will arrive with the birth of Jesus. We look forward to sharing this season of faith with you and your families.



The season of Advent is often characterized by its invitation to 'waiting'. This year, we are trying a different kind of Advent. We expect Jesus to be in our midst, constantly demanding God's presence, and we trust the Holy Spirit in our call, "Why Wait?!"

Advent I + December 3rd + "Comfort Now"

Advent II + December 10th + "Lament Now"

Advent III + December 17th + "Peace Now"

Join us for a time of conversation and community this holiday season, Sunday mornings from 9:40 – 10:20 a.m. between worship services, as we zoom in on the characters and events of the Christmas story.

Sunday, December 3rd – *Annunciation and Visitation*

Sunday, December 10th – *Nativity and Shepherds*

Sunday, December 17th – *Herod and Wise Men*



a casual  **christmas eve**

Sunday, December 24th at 9:30 a.m., join us for "A Casual Christmas Eve". Wear your Christmas pajamas, ugly sweaters, or both, and enjoy a fun and interactive worship the morning of Christmas Eve. Hot Cocoa and Coffee will be served, as well as Holy Communion.

Mark your calendars for these family-centered events...

Sunday, Dec. 10th – Sunday School Christmas Program during our 10:30 a.m. service.

Wednesday, Dec. 20th – Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt and Hot Cocoa Handout, from 5-7p at the OSLC North Doors



Christmas Eve Worship + Sunday, December 24th
3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship + Monday, December 25th
9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Worship + Sunday, December 31st
9:30 a.m. with Holy Communion

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. He".



The 2023 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 consider holding Willie & Anne, Global Health Ministries, and our partner church in the Central African Republic in regular prayer. We are church TOGETHER!



Wednesday, December 20th + 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Martin Luther said that the good news of God wasn't just found in the bible, but also in the trees, flowers, clouds, and stars. This time of year, we think that good news is also found in Christmas lights, chocolatey beverages, and time spent with family and friends. **Visit the north (parking lot) doors on Wednesday, Dec. 20th between 5 and 7 p.m. to grab a Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt sheet and a to go cup of hot cocoa.** Then, enjoy an evening of family fun traveling around trying to find some special decorations around town. We bet you'll find God along the way too.

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, and by following us on our social media pages: Facebook, @OurSaviorsValleyCity, and on now on TikTok, @oursaviorsvcnd.



HI-LINER FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Hi-Liner Food Pantry, serving VCHS students and families, continues to collect donations in the tote near the welcome center. To donate to the Bridges Backpack Program, please make your check out to and mail to: **Bridges Backpack Program, Inc., 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072.**



This year, OSLC and the Kiwanis Club Valley City are sponsoring a 'Giving Tree' to help families in Barnes County. To participate, take a tag off the Giving Tree located in the gathering area at OSLC. Purchase the items, wrap them, put the tag back on the gift and return to OSLC by December 15th. These gifts will then be distributed to local families before the holidays. With questions, contact Tara Anderson 701-740-4849 or Allison Swenson 701-367-5117.



December Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room – We gather for study, reflection, questions, and laughter each week in the Gathering Room. During Advent and the Christmas Seasons, we'll take a deeper look at Martin Luther's Advent Sermons. Join us for conversation and community!

Men's Bible Fellowship | Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room – Walk through the bible one book at a time, grow in your faith, and develop deep and meaningful relationships. All are welcome.

Notes from your Treasurer\$\$

December greetings to Our Savior's members and friends.

I've been thinking a lot about family this past month. I come from a boisterous family of six brothers and one sister. We love getting all together at least once a year to celebrate with each other, but this year was different. With one brother in a nursing home because of a stroke and another one fighting a cancer, we didn't think we'd have that family time; but then came birthday celebrations, a wedding, and finally a funeral. We had that big family get together after all.

That gave me pause to think about my other families: My work family, my family of UND friends, high school friends, and my Our Savior's family. Sometimes I was so busy (so it seemed) that meet, greet, and say, "See you later!" was the extent of our visit. I have started writing letters again in between actual visits! We are finding joy in penning our thoughts and sharing with each other, catching up on family events and more.

I have adopted many of the prayers that come from "Christ in Our Home," but I really trust this one: Oh God, in the midst of this day may I bear witness to your refreshing grace. Help me recognize new life in moments of joy, laughter, and even sadness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I don't know what your December plans are, but I hope you all take joy in visiting with your families and friends throughout the month.

In God's grip,
Janet Brown



Sundays, Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th from 9:40 – 10:20 a.m. in the Conference Room

Join us for a time of conversation and community on Sunday mornings this holiday season. Using scripture and *Martin Luther's Christmas Book* as a guide, we'll zoom in on the characters and events of the Christmas story, and wonder together how this incredible story shapes our lives and faith. No pre-reading or knowledge required! Just grab your coffee and treats, and gather in the conference room for this time of growth and reflection. Hope to see you there!

Sunday, December 3rd – *Annunciation and Visitation*
Sunday, December 10th – *Nativity and Shepherds*
Sunday, December 17th – *Herod and Wise Men*



Christmas Worship Times

Christmas Eve Worship + Sunday, December 24th

9:30 a.m. – A Casual Christmas Eve: Wear your Christmas pajamas, sweaters, or both, and enjoy a casual and interactive worship the morning of Christmas Eve. Hot Cocoa and Coffee will be served, as well as Holy Communion.

3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve: The classic Christmas story told through scripture and song, with "Silent Night" and candlelight to close each service.

**Christmas Day Worship w/ Holy Communion +
Monday, December 25th + 9:30 a.m.
New Year's Eve Worship w/ Holy Communion +
Sunday, December 31st + 9:30 a.m.**



Meeting Highlights – November 8th, 2023

Personnel Manual: Pr. Kyle and Margaret Dahlberg are in process of creating and cultivating a personnel manual. A draft has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and will be brought for review to the full Council in December.

Farm Manager Position: The Council officially accepted Ken DeKrey's resignation as Farm Manager, effective Dec. 31st, with gratitude for 48 plus years of faithful and dedicated service. Monte Johnson has been appointed Farm Manager, effective Jan. 1st, 2024.

Annual Meeting: The Congregational Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, January 28th at 9:40 a.m. Annual reports from committees and groups are due by December 8th.

Deaths: Helen Odegaard (non-member); Jon Nilles (member); Gladys Pederson (member); Janice Dallmann (non-member); and Lowell Busching (member).

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13th @ 7:00 p.m.



CALL COMMITTEE

Your OSLC Call Committee is comprised of eleven members: Brenda White, Judy Karch, Ross Powell, Dennis Gumke, Karen Kringlie, Pat Edinger, Travis Peterson, Janna Kohler, Kyle Gregerson, Pat Johnson, and Kyla Fetsch. The Call Committee has begun to receive candidates for consideration for the vacant pastoral position.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill vacant and new positions on OSLC Committees. Being a part of an OSLC Committee is a great way to jump into the mission and ministry of the church while getting to know a great group of people. Consider these joining these fun and meaningful teams...

2 Openings on **Children and Youth Ministry** - support the Sunday School and Youth Programming.

2 Openings on **Service and Sharing** -share God's love with our neighbors near and far.

2 Openings on **Worship and Music** -help shape and support the church's worship life and our musicians.

2 Openings on **Property** - serve alongside the property manager in caring for the church properties.

2 Openings on **Technology** - manage and grow the church's use of modern and meaningful technology.

If you are interested in being on a committee or have any questions, please be in touch with Pr. Kyle.

Our Savior's Sunday School



"See the Christ in Christmas"
December 10th at 10:30am



16th Annual "Sounds of the Season" Brown Bagger Series

If you like to listen to Christmas music during the holiday season, you now have another opportunity to listen to Christmas Holiday music the Wednesdays in Advent beginning on December 6th during the noon hour. These listening opportunities will be held in the sanctuary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 138 3rd St. N.W. in Valley City from 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. giving listeners time to pick up a sandwich or other type lunch and make their way to the church.

Wednesday, December 6th featured performer is Judy Karch. Wednesday, December 13th, will feature Faye Bubach. Wednesday, December 20th will feature Beth Quick Berge,

So bring your lunch if you haven't had it yet or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments.



The Community Closet will be having an opening from 5 - 7 p.m. on Monday, December 11th. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Sunday, December 10 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. and to clean up on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Contact Information

Pastor Kyle Symanski

Cell - (708)476-8712

klsymanski@gmail.com

Church Office

845-1328

oursaviorsvc@outlook.com



Christmas Plants at Our Savior's

Share a poinsettia plant and help decorate the sanctuary of Our Savior's this Christmas. Complete the information below and return to the church office or offering **plate by Sunday, December 10th**. I wish to contribute a poinsettia plant:

Given by _____

In appreciation/honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please bring the plant to Our Savior's by the time of the Christmas worship services. You may pick up your donated plant following the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship. A list of those providing poinsettia plants will be included in the December 25 bulletin. Thank you.

Be a Senior High Lunch Supporter! Signup on the information counter to cover dessert for a Monday lunch, then drop off your desserts for 100 kids on Sunday after worship or Monday morning before 10:00 a.m. so they can be enjoyed by our favorite Senior High Hi-Liners. Questions? Chat with Pr. Kyle – and thanks in advance!