

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

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**August 2024**



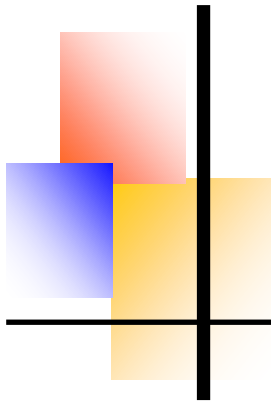
**SAVE THE DATE**



September 8, 2024


- **RALLY SUNDAY WORSHIP**
- **PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF**
- **SERVICE PROJECTS**

**God's work. Our hands.**



# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7:30am Men's Bible Fellow- ship
4 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	5	6 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	7 9:30am Bible Study	8 11-6pm Vitalant Blood Drive- Americinn	9	10 7:30am Men's Bible Fellow- ship
11 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	12	13 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	14 9:30am Bible Study No Council 7:00pm Committees	15	16	17 7:30am Men's Bible Fellow- ship
18 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast 6:00pmVCSU Fall Athlete's Dinner	19	20 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	21 9:30am Bible Study	22	23	24 7:30am Men's Bible Fellow- ship
25 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	26	27 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	28 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm VCSU Marketplace	29	30	31 7:30am Men's Bible Fellow- ship



# OSLC YOUTH

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## **Pre-K - 6th**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Thank you to students, families, and teachers for an amazing 2023 – 2024 Sunday School Year. We'll return for the 2024 – 2025 Year in September. Contact Sunday School Superintendent, 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 Trinity and Faith Lutheran Churches for the 2024/25 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 11th 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. Reach out to Pr. Kyle at [klsymanski@gmail.com](mailto:klsymanski@gmail.com) with questions.

**CONFIRMATION FOR 10<sup>th</sup> GRADERS:** Students entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade, who will be confirmed in October, are expected to be meeting four times with a faith mentor this summer. Letters detailing full expectations were distributed at our meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> and can be found on the youth bulletin board at church. Reach out to Pr. Kyle at [klsymanski@gmail.com](mailto:klsymanski@gmail.com) with questions. As we look forward to confirmation in the fall, please hold these important dates:

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Confirmation Rehearsal and Photos – 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Confirmation Sunday – Worship @ 9:00 a.m., Banquet @ 10:00 a.m.**

**SENIOR HIGH LUNCH:** Senior High Lunch will be back (pending kitchen remodel schedule) on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. All Senior High Students, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, are welcome and invited to share in this free, home-cooked meal. Bring your friends and spread the word!

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Senior High Youth Group for grades 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Save the Date: Sunday, Sept. 8, we will celebrate our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands."**

This special yearly celebration is a day we remind ourselves and our communities

who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. We'll also kick off the program year in style with a celebratory worship service!

This year, we plan to have multiple service and project opportunities for you and your family to engage in, so be on the lookout for specific announcements in worship, on the church Facebook page, and in the September newsletter. With questions or suggestions, be in touch with Pr. Kyle. *"God's work. Our hands." Every day.*



**Vitalant Blood Drive-Sponsored by Our Savior's Lutheran Church-**Thursday, August 8th 11:00am-6:00pm Americinn by Wyndham 280 Winter show Road Valley City, ND Contact Vitalant at (877)258-4825 or scan the QR code to register.



Volunteers are needed to help the day of the drive. To volunteer please call Ruth Larson at 840-2913.



**Beware of suspicious and abnormal emails...**

Please be on the lookout for phishing and scam emails. Reports frequently come to the church office

about suspicious or abnormal emails coming from either Pr. Kyle, Pr. Nicholas, and/or the church office, often asking for money and/or gift cards. For your safety, always make sure emails are coming directly from addresses you recognize, pay attention for poor grammar and spelling, and beware of email requests that ask you "not to call". No pastor will ever ask you for money or gift cards, nor will the church office. If you receive one of these suspicious emails, or are unsure about an email you get from the church or one of the pastors, please call the church office.

## **August Newsletter – President's Corner**

Pastor Kyle opened the July Council meeting with a reading from Nehemiah 1, who led a group of exiles to rebuild Jerusalem. In the first chapter, Nehemiah lays out his "policy," or the fundamental principles of his leadership, calling the people to repent and obey God's commandments, while remembering that they are rooted in a great heritage of God's promises to Israel. As many of the items on our agenda dealt with policy, this reading helped remind us of our own responsibility to live out the mission and values of OSLC as we established policies surrounding building use.

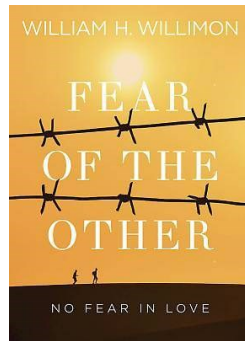
We then discussed the following items:

- New policies for baptism, weddings, and funerals, all of which clarify current practice, to help guide those new to the church. These policies will be available on the church website. This is the second "reading" for these policies, and all three were adopted.
- A building use policy draft was discussed, with the dual concerns that the building be a welcoming resource for the community while still providing for our congregational needs. A sabbatical policy for pastors was proposed. Both these policies will be placed on a future agenda for further discussion and action.
- Upcoming Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities were reviewed, which include the summer "Mr. Rogers" book study (July 21), an evening presentation by Pr. Robert on Christian Nationalism (August 15, 6:30 pm), and the "No Fear in Love" 5 week study series which will begin Sept. 15.
- Approved the directory subcommittee recommendation to use Instant Church Directory to develop the church directory this fall. This will provide both a print and online/mobile phone directory which can be updated to provide "just in time" information to all members.

The council also noted these events in the life of the congregation:

- **Deaths:** Howard Svenningsen and Willard Jantzen (non-members), and Lorny Behm (member)

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President.



**Loving Neighbors Better Study: Fear of the Other**  
**Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room**  
**(beginning Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Using Will Willimon's "no non-sense book and reliable spiritual guide", we'll wrestle with the gospel command to love (and not just tolerate) neighbors, others, and enemies. **Your perspective and questions are welcome and encouraged, as we grow in our call to love better.** Join us for one or all of this five-session series beginning Sunday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

September 15<sup>th</sup>: "Saved by the Other"

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: "The Other, My Enemy"

September 29<sup>th</sup>: "Learning to Fear Like Christians"

October 6<sup>th</sup>: "Loving the Other in Church"

October 13<sup>th</sup>: "Jesus, the Other"

Each session will include a video presentation based on the theme, and will leave time for conversation and questions. Accompanying books for reflection and growth will be used during the Sunday sessions and are available for loan upon request. Be in touch with Pr. Kyle or Pr. Nicholas with questions.



VCSU Fall Athlete's Dinner –  
 Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – Time  
 TBD

VCSU Welcome Event –  
 Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> –  
 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Be in touch with Pr. Kyle or Pr. Nicholas if you're interested in volunteering for one of these annual events as we welcome new and returning students to our community.



## August 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. 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.

## **LIVE STREAM** **Sunday Morning** **Volunteers Needed**

**Want to be a part of our Livestream Team?!**

Individuals of all ages and technical abilities are invited to join the rotating group of individuals who livestream our Sunday morning worships. Livestreaming worship is simple and straightforward, and allows us to connect with people near and far. If you'd like to be trained on the livestream, or want more information, contact Pr. Kyle or Paul Dahlberg and/or Nathan Johnson from the Technology Committee.

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Contact Information**

Pastor Kyle Symanski

Cell - (708)476-8712

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

Pastor Nicholas Rohde

[rohndni01@gmail.com](mailto:rohndni01@gmail.com)

Cell - (507)696-1492

Church Office

845-1328

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

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





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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.**



Want a quick and easy way to support the mission and ministry of OSLC? Visit [oursaviorsvc.org](https://oursaviorsvc.org) and click the blue "GIVE" button or, call or stop by the church office to complete a Simply Giving Form to set up a recurring donations to OSLC today. Recurring gifts allow us to share God's love with neighbors near and far week in and week out. Thank You!



**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11TH @ 6:30 P.M.**  
7TH - 9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION  
STUDENT/PARENT MEETING

**Save the Date: A 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. hosted at Faith Lutheran Church (309 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE).**

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**RED WILLOW MINISTRIES**

*RED WILLOW MINISTRIES 37TH ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION*

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**10:00 AM** - Viewing Opens in the Gym & Silent Auction Opens in the Chapel

**11:00 AM - 12:00PM** - Lunch

**12:30 PM** - Live Auction in the Chapel

**1:45 PM** - Raffle Drawing

**2:15 PM** - Silent Auction Closes

For more information, visit <https://www.redwillowministries.com/quilts-auction>



**Radio broadcast** of the 8:30 a.m. worship is on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on KOVC 1490 AM. To sponsor a broadcast, please contact the church office. The cost is \$100 and may be gifted in memory or in honor of someone or a significant event. Your gift to this ministry is appreciated.



## Notes From Your Treasurer

Greetings from your appreciative treasurer!

First off, I have to apologize for my message in the July newsletter. I had carefully written the news article, but in my haste to get it to the church office, I accidentally sent the message from last July. A good lesson for me to scrutinize what I'm about to email.

Enjoy the days of summer and the beauty of nature all around us. As July ends, we are a little more than half-way through our church budget and finances. I am praying that our giving is like my rhubarb: It just keeps coming no matter how much or how often I pick it. Keep up the good work of your gifts to Our Saviors, whether you are nearby or on vacation elsewhere.

This month my story is about the O.S. (Orange Streak) that visits my house, mostly in the dark hours of the night. The first time it happened, I got pretty excited and a little worried. I was awakened up by this unusual MEOWING! Now my animals don't meow—they purr. As I quietly moved through the house this Orange Streak went racing down the stairs and out the doggie door. I got to the back door just as the Orange Streak was climbing over the chain-link fence and disappeared into the night. Other times I catch sight of the OS as he is crossing the front yard and disappearing, or he is on my deck looking in. What do the Littles and Mac do? They sit at the top of the stairs and watch. There is absolutely no interaction – positive or negative in their responses to this visitor.

I'm telling you this story because it reminded me of the times when I've seen visitors at Our Saviors that I didn't recognize but wasn't gracious enough to introduce myself and welcome them. While I may not welcome the Orange Streak into my house, I do want us to be welcoming to visitors at Our Saviors. Don't miss the opportunity to do God's work right in our own church home. As for the Orange Streak, he hasn't given up. He lets me know as he is leaving with a few MEOWS and the dry cat food dish is usually empty!

Blessings to all of you! Janet Brown



## **"Introduction to Christian Nationalism" presented by: Pastor Robert Franek**

**Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> + 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Presented by our former interim pastor, and member of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Action and Advocacy Team, Robert Franek, this presentation will explore what Christian Nationalism is by looking at various definitions and how these frameworks can help us identify how Christian Nationalism poses a threat to the gospel and our civic life together. Participants will have opportunity to discern together how and to what degree they see Christian Nationalism present in their congregations and communities.

Drawing on the work of scholars and pastors, participants will consider how to respond to this challenge in our church and civic life and leave with some starting points to continue this work in their congregations and communities.

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### **Our Savior's Foundation News**

At the Our Savior's Foundation Board of Directors meeting in July, the board approved updated fund titles and descriptions, to help those interested in giving or requesting funding better understand the funding structure. The new titles and descriptions include:

**Our church home:** Enhance, renovate, and maintain our church properties.

**Growing in Faith:** Provide education opportunities for all generations

**Worship life:** Strengthen the worship experience for the OSLC congregation

**Generosity:** Support the ongoing ministries and charitable work of OSLC for our neighbors near and far

The board also accepted the resignation of Rich Schueneman, and appointed Brenda White to finish out his term. Derek Kohler (vice-president) agreed to serve as president for the rest of the year. Other members of the board include Jeff Nathan (treasurer), Matt Jorrisen, Katie Sather, and Margaret Dahlberg (ex-officio from Council). These directors are selected by the congregation members attending the Foundation's annual meeting each January and serve three-year terms. Please reach out to one of these directors if you would like more information about the Foundation!

# (RE) CONNECTING

Dear People of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

We have undoubtedly changed as a congregation since 2017. We have seen transitions and changes in leadership and membership. We undertook and continue in a bold capital appeal. We endured pandemic. We are, and will continue to be, church *together*.

As we step into a new era at Our Savior's, your congregational leadership and I believe now is the right time to re-commit ourselves to connection and relationship. Intentionality on how we care for and check in with each other will be a core part of Pr. Nicholas' and my work together in the coming year. As a starting point, I am excited to announce the creation of a new church directory using the *Instant Church Directory* program. This will be the church's first directory since 2017, and will allow us to stay connected with each other in a more consistent and modern way.

The *Instant Church Directory* program will allow us to publish the familiar hard copy directories, but also allows to share our directory through our website and a user-friendly app. More importantly than ever before, individuals and families will have the ability to edit information directly and instantly so that family pictures, phone numbers, emails, and addresses can always be up-to-date.

Beginning this month, those who desire to access the directory digitally can do so through the *Instant Church Directory* website or by downloading the *Instant Church Directory* app. Those who desire to submit updated information for the directory using a hard copy submission for may also do so. **Hard copy submission forms, as well as instructions for accessing and downloading the *Instant Church Directory* program digitally, can be found on the information counter at the church.**

In September, a more formal rollout and timeline for the directory and *Instant Church Directory* program will occur. We anticipate hard copy directories to be available sometime in November. In the meantime, we are excited to get the ball rolling on this first step in our re-connection commitment.

**Questions and wonderings about this new directory and program can be directed to myself, or to our Council President Margaret Dahlberg.** We look forward to (re)connecting with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pr. Kyle', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Pr. Kyle