

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

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Valley City, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2024

Holiday Services

Christmas Eve Services
3pm and 5pm

Christmas Day Service 10 am

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

(701) 845-1328

oursaviorsvc@outlook.com

Ann Ripplinger

Office Manager/Financial Secretary

Pastor Nicholas Rohde

Cell - (507)696-1492
rohndni01@gmail.com





OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3 9:00am Good Samaritans-Quilters 1:30 Text Study	4 9:30am Bible Study 12:10-12:50 Sounds of the Season concert in the Sanctuary 6:30pm Confirmation Community Action 8:00 Sr High Youth Group	5	6	7 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
8 9:00am Sunday School Christmas Program/Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio	9	10 9:00am Good Samaritans-Quilters 1:30 Text Study	11 9:30am Bible Study 12:10-12:50 Sounds of the Season concert in the Sanctuary 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	12	13	4 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
15 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast 6:00-8:00pm Community Closet Setup	16 Noon—6:00 Blood Drive at Americinn 5:00-7:00pm Community Closet	17 8:00-noon Blood Drive at Americinn 9:00am Good Samaritans-Quilters 1:30 Text Study	18 9:30am Bible Study 12:10-12:50 Sounds of the Season concert in the Sanctuary No Confirmation 8:00 Sr High Youth Group Annual Reports Due Newsletter articles due	19	20	21 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
22 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 3pm and 5pm	25 Christmas Day Service 10 am	26	27	28 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
29 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	30	31		 <p>Peace on Earth</p>		

December 2024

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."- Luke 1:46-55

Advent is a time and a season for waiting. But this waiting is not an idle wait. It is a wait filled with hope; hope of things that have already come and of things that are yet to be realized. Advent is the time when we wait in hopeful anticipation of Christ's coming into the world. Christ comes and lives among us, as one of us. We wait in hope for the coming of Christ, and all that that means for us. We wait in hope for the renewing promise of resurrection. We wait in hope for the promise of life eternal. We wait in hope for the unfailing promise of forgiveness and mercy, found entirely in the coming of Jesus into the world.

We speak often of the saving work of Christ on the cross. Understandably so, as Christ's sacrifice of life is what frees us from our sin to live a life not in bondage to our sin, but free to serve others. But we should also rejoice in the coming of Christ in human form. It is this act of love from God that puts into motion all the rest. God in Christ does for us what we are unable to do for ourselves. God in Christ, born into a broken and lowly world, is what gives hope to those of us who experience the brokenness of the world, here and now.

We wait in hope. Hope is what begins our Advent journey. Hope is what carries us through the journey. Hope is the name given to the first candle lit on the Advent wreath. I find it no mistake that Hope is lit not just once, but all the way to the coming of Christ on Christmas morning.

In Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PN Rohde". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Pastor Nicholas Rohde



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.**



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.

We will once again enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" concerts on Wednesdays during December (Dec. 4, 11, and 18), from 12:10-12:50 in the church sanctuary. During this busy month,



Sounds of the Season

take time each week to relax over your Wednesday lunch hour with some Christmas music. This year the programs will be streamed on Facebook, so you can listen from your workplace or home if you can't get to the church for the concert. Many thanks to Judy Karch for organizing this concert series. Featured performers will be (12/4) Judy Karch, (12/11) Faye Bubach and (12/18) Beth Quick Berge. So bring your lunch or just come to listen to the music of the holiday

season and enjoy provided refreshments. The public is welcome to attend.



Changes in Offering Envelope Distribution

Beginning in January, we will use a slightly different offering envelope strategy. If you currently receive offering envelopes in the mail, you will now receive them bimonthly (every two months) instead of monthly. Making this simple change will save us about \$500! We are also reviewing the envelope mailing list: If you give online but still receive envelopes in the mail, please let the office know if you would like to opt out of the envelope mailing—this will also help reduce our costs.

2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS



Left to right: Pr Kyle Symanski, Grace Bitz, Cadence Fetsch, Tess Anderson, Tyson Klabo, Griffin Dockter, Sheldon Pabst, Eleanor Pederson, Nora Pederson



The ladies of Good Samaritans Quilters presented Pastor Kyle with a quilt during their weekly sewing session on Tuesday, October 29th.

OUR SAVIOR'S COUNCIL UPDATES

December 2024 Newsletter — President's Corner

Pastor Nicholas opened the Church Council meeting on November 13, 2024, with a reading from Matthew 1. As we prepare for the advent season, Matthew 1 reminds us of Joseph's story, a story of faith and trust in what must have been a very confusing situation. Unlike Mary, who has a direct encounter with an angel, Joseph has a dream, from which he must determine God's will and make life-changing decisions.

In reviewing the Treasurer's report, Council discussed the concern that we are operating at a deficit, with a lower than anticipated weekly offering this year. While we are not actually in the red (because we had savings last year from an open position), we will need to budget carefully next year to work within the lower income. Discussion regarding changes in the way we collect offering included ideas such as situating plates at the front of the church so they are available when folks go up for communion, or passing the plates as we did pre-Covid; if you have suggestions, please be sure to get in touch with me or one of our Council members.

The Council decided on one small savings — by changing the distribution of offering envelopes to bi-monthly mailings, we are quoted a savings of \$500. In addition, if we are able to remove folks from the distribution list who give exclusively online, we can save even more. We will ask those who give online to contact the church office to opt out of the envelope distribution list.

Other items discussed:

Kitchen has been cleared and we are ready to begin work. New Directory has been printed; copies will be available on Sunday for pick-up.

Sounds of the Season (Dec 4, 11, 18) will be live-streamed this year.

Transition Team for the Interim Pastor will be made up of members of the Executive Committee. Call Committee for Pastor Kyle's replacement will be identified in January.

Members of Council volunteered to provide greeters for the next month, while we consider how best to restart this welcoming effort on Sunday mornings.

Property Manager Bobby Koeplin indicated that he is retiring, effective Dec. 31, 2024. A search committee comprising of LouVay White, Margaret Dahlberg, and Pastor Nicholas was established to begin looking for his replacement.

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

Deaths: Luther Skogen, Doug Hamilton, Harvey Hochhalter.

Baptisms: Jairen Udem, Evan Udem, Lillian Marie Udem

Affirmation of Baptism: Tessa Anderson, Grace Bitz, Griffin Dockter, Cadence Fetsch, Tyson Klabo, Sheldon Pabst, Eleanor Pederson, Nora Pederson

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Things have been happening to the outside of our church building late summer and early fall! If you don't regularly use the south entrance to the church, you may not have noticed the outside wooden doors were sanded and stained. The wood trim on the face of the church was also sanded and stained the same color as the doors.

The wood frames and storms on the outside wood windows were deteriorating and in need of repair, so all 31 windows were cleaned, scraped, sanded, caulked, primed and painted. The exterior wood fascia was also scraped, sanded, primed and painted.

The Family Gathering exterior concrete walls were scraped, power washed and had new colored EFIS (textured coating) applied. An unneeded exterior door west of the north entrance was closed off during this process and had the same covering applied. You may have not even noticed this seldom used door!

In Spring, the fascia on the 2nd story roof eaves will be replaced and the upper end gable trim will be replaced or refinished.

Window well grates will be stripped, primed and painted and/or replaced.

The kitchen cabinets and appliances with exception of the dishwasher have been emptied out. Vinyl flooring will be removed soon.

Cabinets have been ordered and wall construction, wiring and plumbing changes are expected to proceed shortly.

Thanks again for your generous support of the Capital Campaign which allowed these needed repairs to be made!

OSLC Property Committee



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

St Catherine's Church will be holding their 52nd Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner Dec 24th 5:30pm to 7pm. Details are in the flyer posted on the bulletin board and will be listed in future bulletin announcements. Contact Deacon Tom Vanorny at 701-210-0640 with questions or to volunteer.



MISSIONARY CALENDAR

The 2025 Missionary Calendar is up! For \$25 a day you can support Willie Langdji, who serves as an ELCA Missionary supporting the work of the Lutheran Church in Western Africa. With your support, we 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, Global Health Ministries, and our partner church in the Central African Republic in regular prayer.

We are church TOGETHER!



Here are three ways to get connected:

1) Access the directory via the Instant Church Directory **website**: members.instantchurchdirectory.com From there, you can update your household information. To access the website you'll need to create an account using the email address you've shared with the church in the past.

2) OR, access the directory via the Instant Church Directory **application** (download in the app store on your mobile device) and update you household information. To access the app you'll need to create an account using the email address you've shared with the church in the past.

3) Don't want to mess with online options? Fill out a directory submission form in **hard copy** at the church. Send a picture to Margaret Dahlberg for upload, and we will take care of getting you signed up.

For those who choose digital access to the Directory, once you are signed up, you will have full access right away! For those who would prefer a hard copy version, hard copy booklets are available — sign up to have your copy printed in December if you have not already done so.

With questions on this process, get in touch with our Council President Margaret Dahlberg at dahlberg15@hotmail.com.



After a number of years as Property Manager for OSLC, Bobby Koeplin has decided to retire, effective Dec. 31, 2024. We appreciate his dedicated service to Our Savior's! We are currently searching for a replacement. This position manages OSLC's apartments, responds to any property issues with the parsonages, and oversees the maintenance our church home. Bobby claims that he **averages** 2-3 hours per week on this work; he has prepared a detailed maintenance manual and job description to help the next person be successful. Please contact LouVay White, Margaret Dahlberg, or Pastor Nicholas if you would like more information.

BUDGET REPORT

January	\$22,569
February	\$33,487
March	\$18,591
April	\$32,566
May	\$15,219
June	\$29,408
July	\$19,121
August	\$16,966
September	\$22,735
October	\$21,071

Total to Date: \$231,813
(Budgeted to date \$300,000)

Amount needed each month
to meet budget: \$30,000



Notes from your Treasurer\$\$

My financial report is a little daunting this month, as our budget was greatly distressed with changes, mostly in the employee/payrolls.

We had allotted \$64,000 for associate pastoral staff, and with the many changes, we will be over budget in that area. We also estimated \$360,000 in income, and as of October 31, the giving amounted to about \$230,000. If the November-December income averages like the previous months, we will still be OK for the year, but will have to make significant changes for the following budget year. The Capital Campaign account looks good as does the Missionary Sponsorship account. Thank you for all the ways you support OSLC.

I just returned from a family trip to Arizona. The Littles, Mac, and Jigger were more than welcoming. They are beginning to spend more time indoors and a little less time on their excellent hunting skills; and I can spend a little less time chasing them around the table to recapture and release their little critters they bring as gifts to me.

My prayer for you this month is one I have adopted from "Christ in Our Home," and I really trust this one: "Oh, 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



Greetings Saints at Our Savior's,

I look forward to joining you all during your time of Senior Pastor transition. Originally from North Dakota, I've served churches in Minnesota, Connecticut, and the vast majority of my ministry in this, the Eastern North Dakota, synod of the ELCA. I've served as solo pastor, associate pastor, hospital chaplain, adjunct college faculty, and interim pastor over my 25 years in ministry.

Our family is based in Fargo, with our 2 sons living between 4-5 hours away; they're working into careers post-college and beginning college. We have a 4 year-old Shih Tzu who is small in stature and large in energy and attitude. Reading, cycling, and writing are some of my hobbies. I am a big University of Michigan fan (Go Blue!) and a fan of the New York Yankees (since the late, great, Roger Maris, our family have rooted for them for decades).

Thank you for this opportunity to serve among you as your Interim Senior Pastor. Together we can learn how Our Savior's will continue to love and serve, in Jesus' name.

Peace,

Pr. Rich Kramer



OSLC YOUTH

Pre-K - 6th

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School meets each week from 10 – 10:45 a.m. Online registration is open for kids in Pre-K (entering kindergarten in 25/26) through 6th grade, found on the Youth Page of the OSLC website – oursaviorsvc.org. Contact Superintendent, Katie Sather, with any questions at oslcsun-dayschool@outlook.com

December Notes:

No Sunday School in December

December 8th – **SAVE THE DATE** – Sunday School Christmas Program during worship!

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS: Class during the month of December will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Classes will be held December 4th and 11th only this month. Make sure you are following through with your worship leadership opportunities and worship note expectations. Be in touch with Pr. Nicholas with questions.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Senior High Lunch will take a hiatus this winter while the OSLC kitchen is remodeled. We'll be back in 2025 with a brand new kitchen and the same great food!

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.