

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

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June 2024



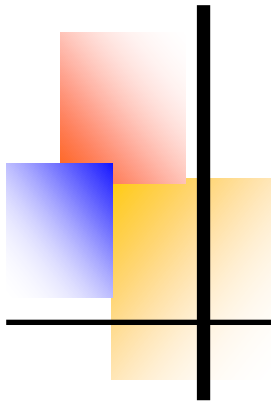
OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship Synod Assembly-Fargo
2 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast Synod Assembly-Fargo	3	4 9:00am Quilters 12:30-5:00pm Vacation Bible School	5 9:30am Bible Study 12:30-5:00pm Vacation Bible School	6 12:30-5:00pm Vacation Bible School	7	8 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
9 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	10	11 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	12 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	13	14	15 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
16 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	17	18 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	19 9:30am Bible Study	20	21	22 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
23 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	24	25 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	26 9:30am Bible Study 5:30-8:30pm VC Green Dot Training	27	28	29 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
30 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast						

The Pastor's Page:

I am a church nerd. I have claimed this identity for as long as I can remember. In junior high and high school, I served on the altar guild and loved hanging banners, changing paraments with the days and seasons, and even washing the communion wares each week. (It was the one time I was glad to wash the dishes.) In high school I also served on the church council. We had potluck lunches for the congregation on council meeting days and I did not mind staying late on Sundays for these meetings.

In May 1999 just before my high school graduation, I participated in my first synod assembly. I was the alternate for my congregation and one of our voting members was unable to go at the last minute. I was thrilled for the opportunity. I loved the plenary sessions, Bible study presentations, and workshops. As an aspiring student of liturgy and liturgical theology it was a privilege to sit in a workshop with the Rev. Paul Nelson, then the Director of Worship for the ELCA.

Shortly after that first Rocky Mountain Synod assembly in Fort Collins, Colorado, I volunteered for a day at the Churchwide assembly in Denver that summer. Beyond my volunteer duties, helping direct people in one of the long corridors and serving as an usher at worship, I had time to browse the Augsburg Fortress store set-up in one of the big halls along with several ministry tables of our church. Just weeks before beginning college at Concordia in Moorhead, I couldn't imagine a more fun way to spend a Saturday.

I was ordained at the Northern Illinois Synod assembly on June 13, 2008. And with my undergrad studies in accounting, I thought it was especially fitting that the ELCA treasurer was the Churchwide representative that year and was a participant in that service. Not so many years later I would be serving on the Northern Illinois Synod worship committee and helping to plan those very same ordination services. I always looked forward to these services and the whole of the assembly as we did the business of the synod and shared in Bible studies and meals together. In addition to synod assemblies, I found great joy in attending several Churchwide assemblies as a visitor. Since, my youth I have always had a deep intrinsic connection for the ministry we do a church together as synod, Churchwide, and partner institutions from Augsburg Fortress to social service ministries to colleges and seminaries to global and domestic disaster response and so many more.



I am especially excited for this year's Easter North Dakota synod assembly as we are Spirit gathered under the theme CHALLENGE: Learn, Discern, Respond. This year's theme comes from our Mission Statement, "Jesus Christ calls us to live in love as we serve, equip, and CHALLENGE God's people." Together, we will explore how we can learn, discern, and respond to challenges.

One of the things our Lutheran tradition has taught me is that our love for God is made known through the love we show our neighbors especially those whose stories and life experiences are different from our own and place them on the margins of society. For as long as I can remember I have felt *challenged* to make this love known both in my daily life and through public policy that benefits the common good of all people and the planet we share.

As church together we face many challenges yes, but more, we are commissioned with the challenge to share the love and grace, justice, and peace of Jesus with this world God loves. We are *challenged* to love every neighbor as God in Christ has loved us. As we seek to love our neighbors better, gaining understanding through stories and developing empathy and compassion for circumstances and structural forces at work we may not be able to see, God is working through us individually and communally as church together as congregation, synod, and Churchwide expressions of this body along with all our ministry partners.

Walling with you in loving our neighbors better,
Pastor Robert

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June - 2024

Notes From Your Treasurer

Greetings from your appreciative treasurer! I look at all the ways things are changing at Our Saviors and I get excited. Capital Campaign projects may seem to have slowed down, but looking below the surface, our property committee under the leadership of Bobby Koepplin keep moving forward toward finishing the youth room project as well as plans for the kitchen.

The water damage in Pastor Kyle's parsonage has been cleaned up and small repairs have been made on the Valley View parsonage in preparation for Pastor Nicholas Rohde's arrival.

Pastor Robert Franek is working alongside Pastor Kyle on the many issues leaders face in a church community of our size. Adding Pastor Rohde to our staff is a blessing we have been praying for. Special thanks go out to our Call Committee who have worked diligently making all this happen.

Having all these things happening this spring/summer may have you wondering about how we are going to handle the finances especially since we approved a budget in January without the surety of an interim pastor and associate pastor being on staff. This makes me think of the "Littles". The "Littles" are the two adopted kitten-cats at my house. When they first moved in, they were very concerned about where their next meal was coming from. Could they trust me to take care of them? Where was a safe place to hide from the resident cat and dog that thought they owned the place? They walked on top of counters, scrounged in every nook and cranny of the house looking for safety and food, even jumped into waste baskets, and tried to dig gunk out of the garbage disposal. Today they know they are safe and secure; they no longer wolf down their food; they plop themselves down almost any place and the purring begin. They have learned to be content!

God does the same thing for us. He provides us with just what we need when we need it. Our job is to ask God for what we need, and then to thank and praise God for taking such great care of us. It feels almost heavenly to know we have a God who is watching out for us and the Holy Spirit in our hearts to guide our days.

Enjoy the beginning of summer and the beauty of nature all around us.

Janet Brown

Our Savior's Foundation News

At the Our Savior's Foundation Board of Directors meeting in May, the board approved a more succinct, revised mission statement:

"Our Savior's Foundation expands the witness and mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church by channeling gifts and income to fund the special needs of our church home and support the charitable goals of the congregation both near and far."

The board also accepted the resignation of Dave Carlsrud, and appointed Katie Sather to finish out his term. Other members of the board include Rich Schueneman (president), Derek Kohler (vice-president), Jeff Nathan (treasurer), Matt Jorrisen, and Margaret Dahlberg (secretary, 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!



OSLC YOUTH

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 4th – 6th | 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Hosted at Our Savior's



Senior Sunday – April 28th

Our Savior's celebrated our graduating seniors at a Congregational Banquet on 4/28.

Pictured (above and right) are those in attendance, who received gifts from the congregation and quilts made by the Good Samaritans

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION: Thank you to parents, students, small group leaders, and volunteers who made our 2023/24 Confirmation such a success. We look forward to gathering again in September and welcoming new 7th graders.

Students entering 10th 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 1st and can be found on the youth bulletin board at church. Reach out to Pr. Kyle at klsyman-ski@gmail.com with questions.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Senior High Lunch wrapped up its 2023/2024 School Year on Monday, April 29th. Thank you to those who participate in and support this amazing ministry. We'll be back in September for our 2024/2025 run!

Bridges Backpack Program

This summer, the Bridges Backpack Program will again be opening the summer grocery store on Wednesday evenings at the high school. This is a free grocery store open to anyone who chooses to utilize it. If you would like to contribute to the summer grocery store, we are looking for volunteers to help on Wednesday evenings from 5-7 pm and for monetary or food donations. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julia Anderson at 701-840-9815 or andersonjb78@hotmail.com. If you would like to give a monetary donation, checks can be made to Bridges Backpack Program Inc and mailed to: Bridges Backpack Program, Inc., 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072. If you would like to contribute food, some suggested items are: canned chicken or tuna, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, canned ravioli, Spaghetti O's, and granola bars. The gray donation tub is located in the family gathering space of the church by the shelving unit used for other donations. If you have any questions, please contact Julia Anderson at the number/email listed above. Thank you so much for your support!

For pastoral emergencies between Friday, June 7th through June 17th. Please contact the church office and Brenda will put you in contact with Pr. Robert or Pr. Nicholas.



The 2024 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!

Peggy Lee Day is Friday, June 14th

Celebrate with the Myron Sommerfeld Band, Miss Bonnie Lynn, and more at 7p at the VCSU Center for the Arts. This concert event is free and open to the public, and all are invited to bring an item to be shared with the Barnes Co. Food Pantry. An ice cream and coffee social will follow. With questions contact Myron Sommerfeld (845 - 1777) or Wes Anderson (845 - 0966).

Wednesday, June 26th | 5:30 – 8:30p + VC Green Dot Church-Based Bystander Training

You are invited and encouraged to join **Valley City Green Dot, on Wednesday, June 26th, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (138 3rd Street NW)** to learn and develop bystander intervention and prevention skills to help end violence in Valley City. **This training will be led by Pr. Sharayah Robinson (Kathryn/Nome/Fingal Lutheran Parish) and will be tailored to situations we as church members, leaders, and volunteers might experience.** Supper will be provided, so we ask that you register ahead at vcgreendot.com/upcoming-events. With questions, contact Pr. Sharayah Robinson at vcgreendot@gmail.com.

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



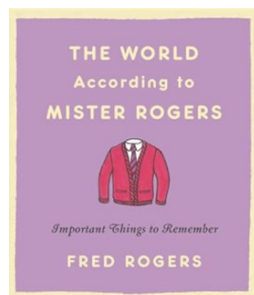
June Bible Study Opportunities

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. This month, we complete our weird and wonderful journey through Revelation. 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.



Summer Book Club – *The World According to Mister Rogers*



Join your friends, family, and neighbors in the shared reading of *The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember*. This June and July, people of all ages are invited to read this “timeless collection of wisdom on love, friendship, respect, individuality, and honesty from the beloved PBS series Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.”

As we grow in our call to love neighbors better, Mr. Rogers helps us shape our understandings of “love, friendship, respect, individuality, and honesty.” Books will be available for reading and sharing throughout the month of June and July on the information counter. Donations to help us offset the purchase of the books are welcome at \$12 a copy.

Later in July, we will gather on a Sunday morning following worship and share thoughts, insights, and questions.

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.



Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly | **June 1st – 2nd, 2024**

Pr. Kyle, Pr. Nicholas, Pr. Robert, Janet Brown, Kara Kramin, and John Thompson will be in Fargo, June 1st through 2nd, representing Our Savior's at this year's Synod Assembly. This year's Assembly theme is “CHALLENGE”, from the Eastern North Dakota Synod Mission Statement – “Jesus Christ calls us to live in love as we serve, equip, and challenge God's people.” Please hold the assembly and participants in prayer as they do the work of church together for the sake of our neighbors near and far.



BIBLE CAMP REGISTRATION: Registration for all ages is now open for summer camp at Red Willow. **Registration at Red Willow is FREE to all OSLC members because of the support of the OSLC Foundation. Be in touch with Pr. Kyle or the church office to get your registration code to receive free camp tuition before you register.** For more information or to register, visit redwillowministries.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Contact Information

Pastor Kyle Symanski

Cell - (708)476-8712

klsymanski@gmail.com

Pastor Robert Franek

Cell—1-309-351-1849

robert.franek@gmail.com

Church Office

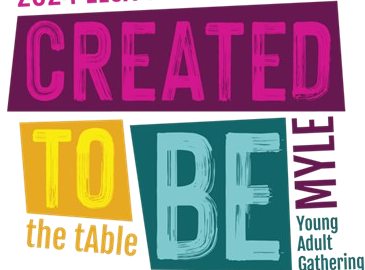
845-1328

oursaviorsvc@outlook.com

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

The Community Closet will be having an opening on Monday, June 3rd from 5 – 7p. Volunteers are needed to help with set up on Sunday, June 2nd between 4 and 6p, and to help with clean up on Monday at 7p. No need to sign up, just show up. Thanks for your helping hands!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



20 youth and adult leaders from Our Savior's, Faith, and Trinity Lutheran are traveling to New Orleans this July for the ELCA's National Youth Gathering. If you would like to be a "**Stockholder**" by making a financial gift to help get our kids to New Orleans, fill out a white "Stockholder" tag (found on the table outside the sanctuary) with your name and address, and leave a check or cash in the amount requested. Checks can be made payable to OSLC, memo: Youth Gathering.

June Newsletter – President's Corner

The meditation for the May Council meeting was prepared by Pastor Robert, using 1 Samuel 3 as his text. The young Samuel hears God calling him in the night, and he thinks the priest Eli is calling. Pastor Robert focused our attention on Eli's behavior – as the elder and spiritual leader, he helps Samuel hear/perceive the Lord. Likewise, Eli models a spirit of openness to hear the Lord's message on the following morning. May we also show similar discernment and support to others as they grow in faith!

The Council continued its review of financial accounts. Several funds held in the general account have been moved to the Foundation; the youth accounts have also been closed and moved to the Foundation. These accounts are used sparingly (perhaps twice a year), so they can be better managed by the Foundation while the monies in each fund are still restricted for their designated use. The Council also discussed the need for an updated church directory and committed \$5000 from the Farm Fund to support several youth at the Neighborhood Church in Fargo who are seeking funding to attend the Youth Gathering this summer.

Pastor Kyle indicated that plans for Summer Diversity/Equity/Inclusion activities include Green Dot training, a congregational book read, and a new study in September. Vacation Bible School registration is at 68; Senior High lunch has ended for the year with 1551 meals served this year. Pastor Robert reported his work in outlining/analyzing the church website and thoughts about developing a pastoral care team.

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

Deaths: Bob McKee (non-member)

Happy Summer, everyone!

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President.