

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

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Valley City, ND  
Permit #39

March 2024

# JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

**Palm/Passion Sunday - March 24th**  
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday - March 28th**  
with First Communion Celebrations  
6:30 p.m.

**Good Friday - March 29th**  
6:30 p.m.



**Easter Sunday - March 31st**  
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



**OUR SAVIOR'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
3 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	4 Sr. High Lunch	5 9:00am Quilter 1:30pm Text Study	6 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship	7	8	9 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
10 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	11 Sr. High Lunch	12 9:00am Quilter 1:30pm Text Study	13 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship 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 Sunday School 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	18 No Sr. High Lunch	19 9:00am Quilter 1:30pm Text Study	20 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship	21 9:30am Jamestown Conference	22	23 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	25 Sr. High Lunch	26 9:00am Quilter 1:30pm Text Study	27 9:30am Bible Study No Confirmation	28 6:30pm Maundy Thursday 5th Grade 1st Communion	29 12:00pm-1:00pm Good Friday 6:30pm OSLC Good Friday	30 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Facebook Live No Sunday School 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast						

March - 2024

## Notes From Your Treasurer

The Annual Meeting at the end of January was a great success! Your treasurer went home to implement the newly approved budget. But that was the least of her work for early February.

It's was time for me to work on our annual Congregational Stewardship Report, or at least the financial side of it. I start by gathering all the pages in our Annual Meeting Report for 2023 that have \$ signs any place. This financial stewardship report has basically three sections for me: Receipts, Assets, Disbursements. This is not just General Budget items, but every financial stewardship item that shows up in the Annual Meeting Report. My working spreadsheets show exactly what page I gathered each figure from. It takes time, patience, and a pencil with an eraser. And lots of coffee!!

January-February also seems to be the time when we receive our personal contribution reports from OSLC. We want you to check over your reports to be sure that your gifts have gone to the categories that you intended them to go to. Changes can be and have been made to accommodate your wishes.

I can think of three areas that all have the word missions in them which may be confusing. Missionary Sponsorship (usually the Missionary Calendar) is to help sponsor our missionaries, Willie and Anne Langdji in Central African Republic. Global Health Missions is to help support healthcare around the world. Finally, Missions, which funds are used more locally.

Another area that may cause some confusion is the phrase: Building Fund. OSLC has a building fund account (separate checking account) which is for repairs above and beyond, regular building maintenance. The apartment rent and Deferred Maintenance obligation in our general budget feed that account. You will be hearing of it being used this winter in reparation of the water damage to the parsonage. Then, of course, the Capital Campaign account, which many of us think of when we see the changes made in our church building. Right now, the Youth Room is being targeted and plans are in place for the kitchen area downstairs.

There are a few other areas that cause us to pick up the phone to confirm what or where a gift is meant to be dedicated to. OSLC surely appreciates your gifts and wants to be sure we honor your gift-giving decisions. Be as detailed as possible in your gifting.

Now, on the home front: My pet-infested household is surviving the curiosity of young kitten-cats. I still can't figure out why they want to paw down in the garbage disposal to retrieve egg shells or think a medicine dropper is a great toy! These two also help me paint.

Take care and stay upright! Spring is on its way!



**March  
Bible Study  
Opportunities**

**Sunday Morning Lenten Study | Lent Sundays (through 3/24) at 9:40 a.m.** – Join Pr. Kyle in the conference room each Sunday in between worships to take a closer look at our Lenten themes and scriptures. Coffee and **questions welcome!**

**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.



# 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 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](mailto:oslcsundayschool@outlook.com)

### **March's Sunday School Schedule:**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Wedding Banquet

March 10<sup>th</sup> – The Great Commission

March 17<sup>th</sup> – **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Egg Hunt

March 31<sup>st</sup> – **Easter Sunday | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Beginning in April, Sunday school will run from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. following 9:00 a.m. worship.**

### **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS (Grades 3 and Up) – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m.**

This year, all students grades 3 and up are invited to participate in learning about Holy Communion, culminating in students partaking in their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship. **Participation in First Communion instruction is not required, and the decision to partake in instruction is up to each individual family.** All students who participate in instruction are then invited to receive their First Communion on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, as part of our 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service. A detailed letter was sent to families in late February.

## **7th - 12th**

**CONFIRMATION FOR 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> GRADERS:** Through the end of the month, Students are expected to participate in midweek Lenten and Holy Week worships. **Worship will serve as our class time through the whole season of Lent until regular class returns in April.** Make sure you are following through with your worship leadership opportunities and worship note expectations.

**SENIOR HIGH LUNCH (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade):** 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 each school Monday through April. 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.



## Easter Plants

Help decorate the sanctuary of Our Savior's this Easter by sharing Easter lilies, azaleas, tulips, etc. Complete the information below and return the form to the church office or offering plate by March 10. You may also email the Church office at [oursaviorsvc@outlook.com](mailto:oursaviorsvc@outlook.com) I wish to contribute a Easter plant:

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring the plant to the church by during Holy Week, March 25th. You can pick them up following the 11:00am Easter worship service. A list of those providing Easter plants will be included in the March 31st bulletin.



## 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.



## MISSIONARY CALENDAR

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 considering holding Willie, Global Health Ministries, and our partner church in the Central African Republic in regular prayer. We are church TOGETHER!



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6:30 p.m.

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## 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. During March, donations of spaghetti or alfredo sauce are especially appreciated. 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.**

### 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

**Pastor Kyle Symanski**

Cell - (708)476-8712

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

**Contact Information-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. Website: [www.oursaviorsvc.org](http://www.oursaviorsvc.org) Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND



# OUR SAVIOR'S FOUNDATION

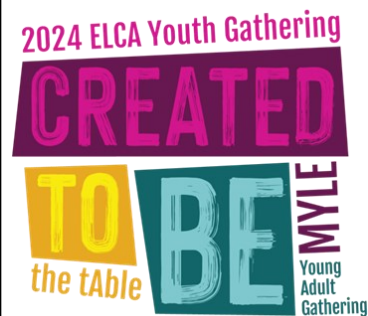
Every year, income from the endowments held by Our Savior's Foundation are used to support our youth, special needs of our church home, and local community missions.

This past year, the Foundation focused on supporting youth in our church and community by providing funding for

1. OSLC campers at Red Willow Bible Camp
2. VCPS Access for All and the Hi-Liner Food Pantry
3. Valley City HS Students for Christ (FCA)

The Foundation also has designated line item accounts for needs within the church home (such as banners, technology needs, or archives), outreach, and education.

Do you see a special need in the church or want to help with the Foundation's ongoing ministry? Please consider a gift to Our Savior's Foundation to support a special fund or endowment. For more information, please contact Rich Schueneman (Foundation President) or Pastor Kyle.



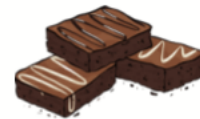
20 youth and adult leaders from Our Savior's, Faith, and Trinity Lutheran are traveling to New Orleans this July for the ELCA's National Youth Gathering. If you would like to stockholder **Stockholders** by making a financial gift to help get our kids to New Orleans, fill out a white stock holder tag 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. Stockholders will get personal thank you from our attendees later this summer.



**WE MOVE TO  
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH.**

Beginning on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, we'll start our new worship pattern of a single service on Sundays. Worship will be held at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday School will follow, running from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship will be held prior to worship at 8:30 a.m. and again following at 10:00 a.m.

The decision to move to a single service was approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> by a more than 80% majority. Input was received from individuals, as well as the Worship & Music and Children & Youth Committees in settling on this new time and pattern. We're excited to start this new chapter at OSLC!



## BE A SENIOR HIGH LUNCH SUPPORTER!

Would you be willing to make bars/cookies/ dessert for Senior High Lunch? We are serving as many as 90 – 100 kids every Monday and Pr. Kyle needs your help to feed them all! Consider signing up on the information counter to be a "Senior High Lunch Supporter" and cover dessert for a Monday lunch. Sign up on your own or with friends, and then drop off your desserts 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!



“  
We can't go over it...  
We can't go under it...  
We have to go through it.  
”

You may recognize this refrain from the children's song "We're Going on a Lion Hunt." Every day for about two months this past fall, I had the privilege of singing this song on repeat as I drove one of our foster placements to day care. I was hoping that by now that I would forgotten the tune and lyrics, but it seems to permanently committed to memory, and from time to time will pop to the front of my brain, just as it did at about 4:30 this morning. As it turns out, the frustratingly catchy lyrics might just be the perfect reflection as we find ourselves in the midst of Lent and nearing Holy Week.

It is human nature to want to skip right to the good part, to the happy ending. (Insert the equally catchy lyric from the late, great Tom Petty here – "The waiting is the hardest part.") Lent is undeniably long – 40 days, not including Sundays – and it's meant to be. This time leading up to Easter Sunday functions as a prayerful, sometimes somber, reflective season that invites us to face the hard human realities of sin and death. The music shifts to a minor key and the church dresses in deep purples and blacks foreshadowing the tragic and violent ending of Jesus' life on Good Friday. Even as we have focused our worship and scripture this year on the book of Acts and the work of the Spirit, the road is still leading us to the cross on Calvary hill.

As convenient as it would be to skip over Lent entirely and jump to the flower-filled celebration of Easter, the hard realities of Lent are just as real as the obstacles on a lion hunt – we can't go over it...we can't go under it...we have to go through it.

The Rev. Dr. James D. Ross puts it this way: "We have to spend time deep in the horror of betrayal and false convictions. There is no resurrection without the brutality of the cross....We'd often rather avoid the challenge of Holy Week. We prefer to ignore Good Friday because it is just so hard, and it reminds us too much of the world's ugliness. It reminds us too much, perhaps, of our own role in the world's ugliness, whether intentional or by our passive inaction. But that pain is a necessary part of the journey."

It is from the brutal reality and pain of Jesus' journey to the cross and crucifixion that the true joy and hope of Easter emerges. As the hymn sings, "...death be now but never last!" (Death Be Never Last, ACS #1030).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. D. Ross". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.



## March Newsletter – President's Corner/Council News

Your newly elected Church Council met February 14, 2024. Pastor Kyle opened our meeting with a devotion on Jethro, Moses' father-in-law (see Exodus 18:10-27). This seemed like a rather obscure start! But we learned that Moses was facing burnout, and Jethro helped him set up a leadership structure that spread the work of guiding the Israelites. So basically, a committee structure! Just as we manage the work of the Church through the participation of many people, with a few we select to represent our voices and concerns on the Church Council.

Here are the members of the 2024 OSLC Church Council:

Council President – Margaret Dahlberg

Council Vice President – Travis Peterson

Secretary – Tara Anderson

Treasurer – Janet Brown

Property Committee – LouVay White

Worship & Music – Karen Kringlie

Service & Sharing – Kyle Fetsch

Children & Youth – Diane Hochhalter

Technology – Nathan Johnson

Congregational Life – Julia Anderson

At the Annual Meeting in January, the Council was tasked with setting the worship time starting April 7, when we move to a single worship service. After consultation with the Sunday School Superintendent, we agreed that, **for the months of April and May, 2024, worship will be at 9:00, with Sunday School following at 10:00; coffee fellowship will be at 8:30.** We will survey parents and congregants in May to help us understand how this plan works for everyone; the Council is open to making changes, depending on what we hear back from members.

In other actions, the Council also agreed to pledge \$1000 of Diversity Funds (from the Farm Fund) to partially support an LGBTQ+ speaker at VCSU in April, Taylor Brorby, the author of *Boys and Oil*. This book was our first DEI Book Study last year. The Council approved Jennifer Stainbrook's appointment to the Congregational Life Committee, designated Margaret Dahlberg as the Council Representative to the Foundation Board and discussed the continued need for additions to the Technology Committee. Please see Pr. Kyle if you are interested.

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

- **Baptisms:** Nav Daniel Lindemann; Sawyer Gene Straabe
- **Deaths:** Mavis Stearns (Member); Laverne Henne (Member – No Funeral); Leon Bellmore (Member).

As we move through our Lenten Journey towards the joy of Easter, I pray that we may be Altered by the Spirit, both as individuals and a congregation. Be sure to share your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns with someone on Council, so we can truly represent all members of the church.

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President