

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

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**May 2024**



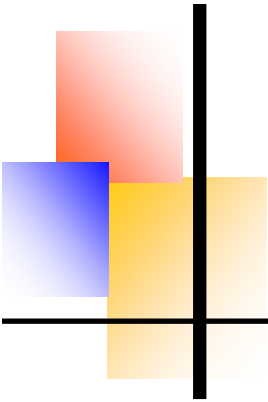
**OUR SAVIOR'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**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

## May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30am Bible Study	2	3 2:00pm- 6:00pm Treasure Sale	4 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship 8:30am- 12:00pm Treasure Sale
5 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Growing in Faith 11:00am Radio Broadcast	6	7 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	8 9:30am Bible Study  7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	9	10	11 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
12 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Growing in Faith 11:00am Radio Broadcast	13	14 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	15 9:30am Bible Study	16	17	18 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
19 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Growing in Faith 11:00am Radio Broadcast	20	21 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	22 9:30am Bible Study	23	24 9:30am Pastor's Conference	25 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
26 8:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	27 Office & Building Closed	28 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	29 9:30am Bible Study	30	31	

## May Newsletter – President’s Corner

At the start of the Council meeting this month (April 10), Pastor Kyle read from the first chapter of Joshua, which details the call of Joshua to lead the Hebrews into the promised land. God says to Joshua, “I will be with thee: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage...” (Joshua 1:5b-6a). Pastor Kyle reminded us that we are likewise entering a period of change, and we must remember these words of assurance during the inevitable moments of adjustment.

As we anticipate the arrival of our new associate pastor, it would be well to remember that this is God’s doing, that while we voted to extend a call, it is a case of God using our hands to bring this family to Valley City and to Our Savior’s Lutheran: what amazing things will God do next with our church family and the people He has brought together to do His work?

At the Council meeting, we reviewed the agenda for the special congregational meeting and discussed some reorganization of accounts to strengthen internal controls. Various activities (detailed elsewhere in this newsletter) were discussed, including the Senior Breakfast on April 28, the plans for Vacation Bible School (June 4-6, 12:30-5 pm), the progress of our youth in raising funds for the Youth Gathering, and the start of our Interim pastor, Pastor Robert, who will be with us for three months to assist with transitions and pastoral coverage when Pastor Kyle is not available.

At the time of our meeting (April 10), we had experienced only one Sunday with a single service. Pastor Kyle noted that about 140 people attended on April 7, which is a normal attendance (stretched over two services in the past). So far things seem to be going well; please share any concerns or suggestions you may have regarding this change with Pastor Kyle or any members of Council, so we can make certain we are properly representing your views as we make decisions at Council.

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

1. **Deaths:** Rick Sterns (non-member); Howard Langemo (member)
2. **Baptisms:** Esly Schaefer, Conley Mahigan

As we move from the new beginnings of Spring and Easter, and turn our faces towards Summer this month, remember to be strong and of good courage, for God is with us; he will not fail us or forsake us!

*Margaret Dahlberg, Council President*

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## OUR SAVIOR'S FOUNDATION

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*I recently found an old black & white, grainy photo of me (in a mini-skirt!), age 14, standing in front of a cabin at Hunky Dory Resort, near Balsam Lake, WI. It was my second year at a one-week summer camp run by the World Mission Prayer League; we were able to spend a week learning from a variety of missionaries just back from or ready to leave for their mission fields, spend time in fellowship with them and their families, and grow a connection to the mission field we could support with prayer all year long. It was a wonderful, life-enriching experience that I would wish for any young person! (Margaret Dahlberg)*

Perhaps you remember a wonderful summer experience at a Bible retreat or camp when you were younger? OSLC provides ongoing support for Red Willow Bible Camp, a special retreat/camp only an hour’s drive away. In fact, the Foundation offers camperships to cover the cost of attendance for every youth at Our Savior’s. If you have a young person who would like to attend Bible Camp, be sure to contact Pr. Kyle before you register online, so he can provide the correct registration code for billing purposes. If you would like to support this ongoing ministry, please consider a gift to Our Savior’s Foundation.

# OUR SAVIOR'S WELCOMES

There are soon to be some new faces around the halls of Our Savior's!

Following a year-long search, the Call Committee identified Nicholas Rohde as the candidate of choice for our vacant Associate Pastor position. At a Special Congregational Meeting held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, the congregation voted to extend a call to Pr. Nicholas. We are grateful for the diligence and patience of the Call Committee, and look forward to Pr. Nicholas joining the staff late in May.

As Pr. Kyle leads this transition work, the Church Council has also agreed to part-time, term contract with Pr. Robert Franek, who will serve as an interim pastor with Our Savior's for the months of May and June. Pr. Robert will join Our Savior's on Sunday mornings beginning May 5<sup>th</sup>, and will be in the office periodically during the week.

You can read more about the new members of the Our Savior's team below...



Nicholas Rohde was born and raised in Rochester, MN as the youngest of three brothers. He earned his undergraduate degree from Luther College in Decorah, IA before attending Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, where he received his Master of Divinity degree. Nicholas and Leslie married in October of 2014 and they moved to Wahpeton in 2016. Since living in ND, Nicholas has served six congregations as a Synod Authorized Minister. Leslie and Nicholas have two sons, James (5) and Jonathan (1). All four Rohdes, along with their pets, are excited to start a new adventure in life and ministry in Valley City!

Pastor Robert, while born in North Dakota, grew up primarily in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The connection between faith and learning, Lutheran identity and scholarship has been central for Pastor Robert since his youth. He knew he wanted to go to a Lutheran college and eventually chose Concordia in Moorhead, where he majored in Accounting and Religion. Adding to his passion for liturgy, at Concordia, Pastor Robert found a love for studying scripture, theology, and ethics. In 2007 he graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He served in his first call for ten years in a small town near Galesburg, Illinois. Pastor Robert has been doing interim ministry since 2018, serving three congregations in Rockford, Illinois, and Trinity Lutheran in Valley City. Most recently, he has served Standing Rock Lutheran and Preston Lutheran in Fort Ransom and the Dwight-Mooreton Lutheran Parish.

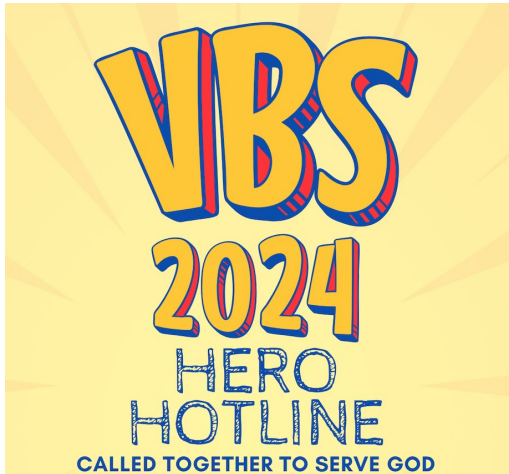




# OSLC YOUTH

## Pre-K - 6th

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Thank you to students, families, and teachers for an amazing 2023 – 2024 Sunday School Year. Our final class for the year will be Sunday, May 5th (10:00 – 10:45 a.m.), and we'll return for the 2024 – 2025 Year in September.



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** **June 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> | 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.** Hosted at Our Savior's

Sign up today for this year's VBS. As always, **VBS is FREE** of charge through your amazing congregational support and because of our partners at Faith Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran!

**Register at this link:**

<https://form.jotform.com/240864442295057>



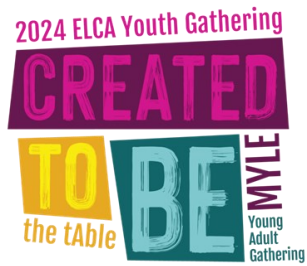
## 7th - 12th

**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](http://redwillowministries.com)

**CONFIRMATION FOR 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> GRADERS:** Our final confirmation class will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church (499 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW). We'll have pizza and play some game to close out the year! At 7:30 p.m. that same night, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families will meet to discuss summer expectations.

**SENIOR HIGH LUNCH (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Senior High Lunch wrapped for the 2023/24 Year on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who provided desserts throughout the year. We'll be back in September!

**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 @oslcshyg to the number 81010. By signing up, you'll get reminders about when we're meeting and the fun planned for that night.



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.



## 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!

### Notes from Your Treasurer\$\$

Greetings to all our members and friends this beautiful spring season – a time of changes for us. It’s wonderful in the way you are adjusting to the 9:00 church service, and now we look forward to more pastoral care as we call Pastor Nicholas Rohde to Our Saviors, and also the help from interim pastor, Robert Franek.

As your treasurer I ask for guidance as I open each packet of paperwork – invoices, deposit information, bank statements, and anything else that gets put in my mail. I do need help though when the bank statement lists “Thrivent Grant – payment to OSLC” in the deposit section of a monthly statement. I have no way of knowing who to credit the gift to or what the gift is intended to be used for unless the giver tells me. I sometimes have to create the deposit with “unknown giver” and that works for me, but it doesn’t help you if you want credit for your gift. Please let the office know about any upcoming Thrivent giving – unless you want to remain anonymous.

On the home scene, rumors of my work retirement may be a bit exaggerated. I’m just glad that God is in charge of my life. And on the pet scene, the four critters have decided that they are in a safe environment as they occasionally just plop into my lap at their own discretion. Snoopy has decided to be an office cat in that he accompanies me to my home office and settles in the waste paper basket as I work on the computer. There is no accounting for tastes, especially with a pet bed nearby.

Have a great spring as we welcome the tulips and green lawns!

Janet Brown



# May Bible Study Opportunities

**Growing in Faith | Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room** – A new opportunity in the life of the congregation. Join Pr. Kyle for a time of conversation and wondering about scripture, faith, and our call as God’s people. This month: *Our Lutheran History* (5/5); *Our Lutheran Worship* (5/12); and *Our Lutheran Call* (5/19).

**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.



## **Growing in Faith | Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room**

A new opportunity in the life of the congregation. Join Pr. Kyle for a time of conversation and wondering about a wide range of topics including scripture, faith, and our call as God’s people. This month: *Our Lutheran History* (5/5); *Our Lutheran Worship* (5/12); and *Our Lutheran Call* (5/19).



*Many of you have come to me with deep, thoughtful wonderings and concerns on the ongoing Crisis in the Middle East and Holy Land. Know that I welcome these conversations, and am grateful to walk this journey of faith and love with you. While we continue our prayers and hopes for a peaceful end to the violence, I’d also like to lift up this additional resource as we continue to learn to love our neighbors better, together. – Pr. Kyle*

*In response to the Hamas attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel's declaration of war against Hamas, including the ongoing siege of Gaza, the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has created a resource page for congregations and individuals who want to engage this issue from a Lutheran perspective. On this page, you will find statements from some of our Lutheran and global partners in the region. Also included are ELCA resources for a deeper understanding of the context, the humanitarian crises of the current war, and the ELCA's work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.*

You will find the resources here: <https://elca.org/crisis-holy-land>



Dear People of Eastern North Dakota Synod,  
 As your bishop, I am committed to opportunities to expand our experiences of God's world. Experiencing other places and cultures has been impactful on my own faith development and I want to engage with you in such opportunities. To that end, I am offering a different trip for 2024 – a Footsteps of Paul trip, scheduled for October 15-26, 2024. You can find more information and an opportunity to register at: <https://www.eliastours.com/tours/eastern-north-dakota-synod-footsteps-of-paul-tour-with-with-bishop-tessa-moon-leiseth>

The Footsteps of Paul trip will be a special opportunity to learn more about the Apostle Paul and to see and experience the places connected to his ministry. It will be an opportunity to learn more about the early church and to imagine the planting and growing of the Gospel. And as a special treat, our siblings in the Western North Dakota Synod, including Bishop Craig Schweitzer, will be traveling with us. I have been watching posts and photos of others who have gone on this trip, and it looks fantastic. I invite you to consider this Footsteps of Paul trip in your 2024 plans. And, if you are not able to travel on this trip, keep your eyes open for future opportunities. Your partner in the Gospel, Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth

Connect with us:



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](http://oursaviorsvc.org), and by following us on our social media pages: Facebook, @OurSaviorsValleyCity, and on now on TikTok, @oursaviorsvcnd.

## CALL COMMITTEE

**THANK YOU** to Call Committee members Brenda White, Judy Karch, Ross Powell, Dennis Gumke, Karen Kringlie, Pat Edinger, Travis Peterson, Janna Kohler, Kyle Gregerson, Pat Johnson, and Kyla Fetsch for their faithful and dedicated work over the past year. In that time frame, the Committee created and submitted a call profile to the Synod, interviewed three different candidates, and met numerous other times to help plan and brainstorm about the future of Our Savior's. At a special congregational meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Call Committee recommended Nicholas Rohde for the Associate Pastor's position. Affirming their work, the Council set a Call Vote for Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and the Congregation voted to extend the call. We are excited to begin our next adventure with Pr. Nicholas in the near future!



## 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 May, donations of cereal, pancake mix, and syrup 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.**

### Final Sonja Hefty Yard Sale

May 10th & 11th from 8am-5pm at 963 2nd Ave NW.

Household Furniture, Dishes, China, Crystal, Milk Glass, Clothing, Jewelry, Mirrors, Outdoor flags, Decorative items, Holiday decor, Workout Equipment, Small appliances, Tools and much more...