

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

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Valley City, ND

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November 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 3:00 pm

(701) 845-1328

oursaviorsvc@outlook.com

Ann Riplinger

Office Manager/Financial Secretary

Pastor Nicholas Rohde

Cell - (507)696-1492

rohndni01@gmail.com



Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			 ALL SAINTS' DAY		1	2 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
3 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Livestream 10:00am Pr. Kyle Farewell Celebration 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Radio Broadcast	4	5 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	6 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation @OSLC	7 5:00pm Executive Comm.	8	9 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
10 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Livestream 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	11	12 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	13 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation @ OSLC 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	14	15	16 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
17 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Livestream 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Radio Broadcast	18	19 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	20 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation @ OSLC	21	22	23 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
24 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Livestream 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Radio Broadcast	25	26 9:00am Quilters 1:30pm Text Study	27 9:30am Bible Study NO CONFIRMATION	28 BUILDING CLOSED	29 BUILDING CLOSED	30 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship

Dear People of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

In May of 2018, I received a phone call from a mysterious area code – 701. Though I did not know it at the time, calling was then Eastern North Dakota Synod Bishop Terry Brandt who asked one simple question: “Are you ready for ministry in North Dakota?!” The moments, months, and years since have felt like a whirlwind. Time has simultaneously flown by and stood still. Through highs and lows, joys and sorrows, thick and thin, I continue to give thanks to God every day for the phone call that led me here and to the Holy Spirit that spoke the answer to the Bishop's question – “I can't wait.”

Though it is not at all quantifiable, here is just a glimpse of the ministry we have shared together these six plus years...

Countless visits, conversations, phone calls, letters, and touch points
Over **\$850,000** raised and committed to our Growing in Grace Appeal
More than **\$600,000** sent from the Farm Fund to neighbors near and far
Some **7,500+** Senior High Lunches served
3,306 LWR Quilt, Baby, Personal, and School Kits packed and shipped
321 Sundays come and gone
107 Saints commended to God's eternal care
75 youth affirmed their baptisms
Dozens of community meals and events attended representing OSLC
15 different pastors, musicians, and paid ministry staff worked with
13 months of pandemic worship
6 Christmas Eve candlelight vigils and **6** Easter Sunday empty tombs
3 new roofs on the church building
2 Calls
1 Congregation

I am, and forever will be, grateful to each and every one of you for making the above and so much more possible. It has been my honor and privilege to serve alongside you all these past 6 plus years. May God continue to bless each of you to be a blessing, and may God be with you until we meet again.

In deep gratitude and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Brandt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.



November 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.



Our Savior's Lutheran is once again partnering with Faith Lutheran in this year's Community Thanksgiving Basket program. **Baskets will be filled on Thursday, Nov. 21st and pick-up/delivery will happen on Friday, Nov. 22nd.** Volunteers to pack/distribute/deliver baskets can be in touch with the Service and Sharing Committee at OSLC, or with Julie in the Faith Lutheran office at 845-4390.

Monetary donations to make this ministry possible will be collected throughout November. To donate, earmark a check or cash to "Thanksgiving Food Baskets" and return to the church office or drop in the offering plate on Sunday. Online donations can be given to the Thanksgiving Food Basket fund through our website by clicking the "Give" button. **Thank you for your continued support of this incredible ministry!**



BAKE AND QUILT SALE

SATURDAY, NOV. 23rd

8:30—11:00 A.M.

Coffee, juice, and rolls will be served. Come do you Thanksgiving baking with Our Savior's. Lefse, breads, candies, and goodies of all kinds will be available.

Please note, large quantities of lefse will not be available this year because of the ongoing kitchen construction. Volunteers to make lefse and/or pies at home for the bake sale are greatly appreciated.



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.**

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 worship. 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.



SENIOR HIGH LUNCH: Senior High Lunch will be on hiatus this fall while the OSLC kitchen is remodeled. We look forward to being back to full service this winter!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

**Lutheran
World Relief
Quilt and Kit
Ministry** is
expanding to

reach neighbors in need in the United States. This means that Quilts and kits will now comfort families here in the U.S.,—and abroad, as they always have. This expansion is possible entirely because of the faithful people like you, who contribute your time and talents to make and assemble quilts and kits. The Quilt and Kit Ministry is the longest running program, born in 1945—the same year as Lutheran World Relief. Over these last 80 years, the ministry has grown considerably, which means it can expand to comfort and care for more of our neighbors, both near and far. How heart-warming to think of quilts and kits reaching those who have been so afflicted with the devastation of the latest hurricanes of Helene and Milton. (Continued...)



Our new directory is up and running, and all we need now is for you to update your information!

Here's how you can 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) Access the directory via the *Instant Church Directory* app (**download in the app store on your mobile device**) and update your 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) Fill out a directory submission form in hard copy at the church. Send a picture to Margaret Dahlberg or one of the pastor's 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, we anticipate booklets 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.

With questions on this process, you can be in touch with our Council President

Margaret Dahlberg at
dahlberg15@hotmail.com.

OUR SAVIOR'S COUNCIL UPDATES

At the Church Council meeting on October 9, 2024, Pastor Nicholas opened the meeting with a discussion of Lydia (Acts 16:13-15). Paul met Lydia when he searched out a group of women who gathered for prayer on the Sabbath outside the city walls. Of this encounter, the writer of acts says, "When she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and stay." So she persuaded us." Pastor Nicholas reminded us that, like Paul, we will work with those who challenge us to try new things; a good leader is one who is open to challenges and welcomes the ideas of others.

In approving the minutes from the month of September, the Council also approved minutes from a special meeting of the council (held Sept 25), at which time the Council received Pastor Kyle's resignation and authorized the Executive Committee to search for both an office manager (to replace Brenda) and an interim pastor to help Pr. Nicholas for the year following Pr. Kyle's departure. At the October 9 meeting, the Executive Committee reported that Ann Ripplinger has been hired as the new Office Manager; she started work Monday, October 7. We are very grateful for Brenda Skramstad's 20 years of faithful service in the church office and wish her the very best.

The Executive Committee also reported that the Synod Office has proposed the name of a potential interim pastor, whom the Committee interviewed on Oct. 3, and whom they highly recommend. After some discussion, the Council voted to authorize the President to tender a letter of offer, with a salary of \$60,000, for a one year interim. In further business, the Council approved a simple, in-house print publication of the church directory, bound by three staples and no cover. These will be printed the week following Nov. 3, 2024, and include only the staff pages, member photos, and contact information.

The council also noted these events in the life of the congregation: **Deaths:** Heather Peterson; **Baptism:** Campbell Jae Fondness; **Weddings:** Sarah Engler & Jordan Kuntz

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Continued...

Our Saviors Lutheran is certainly doing our part in this amazing ministry. We send shipments of kits and quilts in the Spring and Fall. Yearly totals were once again awesome. **Thanks to hard-working people in our congregation, 300 school kits, 81 baby kits, personal care kits, and 106 quilts were sent in 2024.** The Good Samaritan Quilters work on Tuesdays and can always use more hands. They make many more quilts than are given to LWR, others are given locally. If knitting and crocheting or sewing is something you can do, baby blankets and caps and surging of flannel blankets and sleepers and t-shirts is an on-going job. **Some of the items that we are always in need of are: light weight bath towels and hand towels (new or gently used, dark preferred), soap, baby sleepers, t-shirts and onesies, jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters, all up to size 2T, flannel blankets, square 36" up to 52 inches, and flannel sheets for diapers. There are baskets in the Family Gathering Room to collect your items anytime.** So you see, our work is never done! Once a shipment is sent, we start collecting and working on the next one. Monetary gifts are also appreciated as Women of Our Saviors sends dollars for shipping. Grants from Thrivent have been so beneficial as members can receive a grant that can be used to purchase many items in bulk. Lutheran World Relief, LWR.org, is a wonderful website that has videos and testimonials of people who have been the recipients of our generosity. Again, thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way to support this wonderful mission and ministry of Our Saviors Lutheran. If you have any questions or would like to know how you can help you can contact me—Jan Stowman, 701-840-1808



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 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.



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!

CHANGE! Today I'm thinking of all the changes taking place in our church, in nature, and in me. OSLC should be getting used to changes: Some that we look forward to and some that we don't like seeing. We are definitely looking forward to the completion of our Capital Campaign projects especially the youth room and the kitchen areas. Think of all the changes that have happened since the Capital Campaign began. Special thanks to the Property Committee and Bobby Koepplin for overseeing this huge project; and a huge thank you to all of you for providing the means to make these changes happen!

My heart sank when Pastor Kyle told us he would be leaving us in November. I am happy for him and have to remember that God is very much in charge. We welcomed Pastor Nicholas in May and also Pastor Robert, and now we have Ann Ripplinger at the front desk. Please introduce yourself to her soon. Brenda Skramstad welcomes your prayers for her health.

As for me, work retirement finally happened! The five years I had promised to the job turned out to be twelve great years. I am still up every morning at 5:30 ready for my coffee and devotions. It is interesting when I realized I never get yesterday back! I turned a small notebook into a work and fun list of things I want to accomplish each day. However, I have no problem drawing an arrow forward if something isn't completed on the scheduled day.

The treasurer's message should also contain financial information. If you are looking for a place to put an extra \$100, the Sunday radio broadcast would welcome your help. The radio broadcast has 52 Sundays plus special broadcasts during Christmas. Please let the office know if you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor or memory of important people in your life. Also, you have recently received your 3rd quarter giving statement. Please review it, and call the office if any corrections need to be made. I leave you with Psalm 37:34 "Put your hope in the Lord. Travel steadily along His path."

In God's grip, Janet Brown, OSLC Treasurer



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

November Notes:

November 10th – **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS: Class during the month of November will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. A full calendar for the year is available on the Youth Page of the OSLC website – oursaviorsvc.org., as well as in hard copy along with expectations and other sign up opportunities on the Youth Room Bulletin Board at the church. 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 fall while the OSLC kitchen is remodeled. We'll be back in the winter 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.