

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

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Valley City, ND

April 2025



Maundy Thursday: 6:30 pm

Good Friday:

12:00 pm & 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday:

9:00 am & 11:00 am

Church Building Hours

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

Interim Pastor Rich Kramer

(701)612-3465

Kramerr2846@gmail.com

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
6 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	7	8 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	9 9:30am Bible Study 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:30 pm Worship 8:00 Sr High	10	11	12 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:15 Bible Study 11:00am Radio Broadcast	14	15 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	16 9:30am Bible Study 7:30 pm Committees 8:00 pm Council	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 pm Worship	18 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 pm COMMUNITY WORSHIP 6:30 pm Worship	19 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Breakfast 11:00am Worship 11:00am Radio Broadcast 	21 6:30 pm PEO	22 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	23 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation - Trinity 8:00 pm Sr High	24	25	26 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
27 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	28	29 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	30 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation—Trinity 7:30 pm 9th Grade Parent Meeting	 <p>Easter Blessings</p>		



Rohde's Reforming Report

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ...After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. – John 13:3-7, 12-14

In this season of Lent, we gather together not only on Sunday morning, but Wednesday evening. We gather with intentionality; to grieve, to confess, to give thanks. We grieve the things and the people we have lost. We grieve what we cannot have or experience, or the things we no longer have.

We gather, also, to confess. We confess our shortcomings; our failures. We confess our misunderstanding or misuse of who and what God has called us to be for the world. We confess our ignorance, our arrogance, our self-righteousness. We confess that we gather more often at tables that Jesus would want to turn over rather than at tables that invite and include the meek and overlooked of the world.

We gather to give thanks. We give thanks for the grace-filled gift that is Jesus the Christ. We give thanks not only for his redeeming death and resurrection, but for his teachings and examples of how we are to be reflections of Him for the world.

In the Gospel of John, as Jesus gathers with his disciples one last time before his crucifixion, he takes that opportunity to teach them how to serve one another and others. Jesus washes their feet, becoming a visible and tangible example of how they, and we, are to serve those around us. Jesus, their teacher, our Messiah, washes their feet and not the other way around. Jesus wipes away their uncleanness, while also acknowledging that it is not their whole selves which are unclean. Jesus also washes away our uncleanness, our sinfulness, leaving our righteousness through Christ to shine for the world. We are freed from our sinfulness in the baptism of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. This freedom is ours, not to hold onto selfishly, but to share with our neighbors in creation through service.

Remember, Judas was also welcomed at the Last Supper. You are also welcomed.

God's redeeming love to you all,



Pastor Nicholas Rohde

Christ Is Risen!
 CHRIST
 IS RISEN
 INDEED *Alleluia*

This year we will be approaching the celebration of our High School seniors differently. Instead of a reception on a particular Sunday, we will celebrate our graduating seniors on FOUR Sundays – April 27, May 4, 11, and 18. Graduates and their families will be asked to select one of these Sundays to attend church for a blessing/sending from the congregation during the church service, followed by an opportunity to individually greet and congratulate them after church in a reception line. Graduates will receive their quilts as part of the blessing service. Graduates and families: please watch for sign up information in an email message coming soon to your inbox. Questions? Check with Pr. Rich.



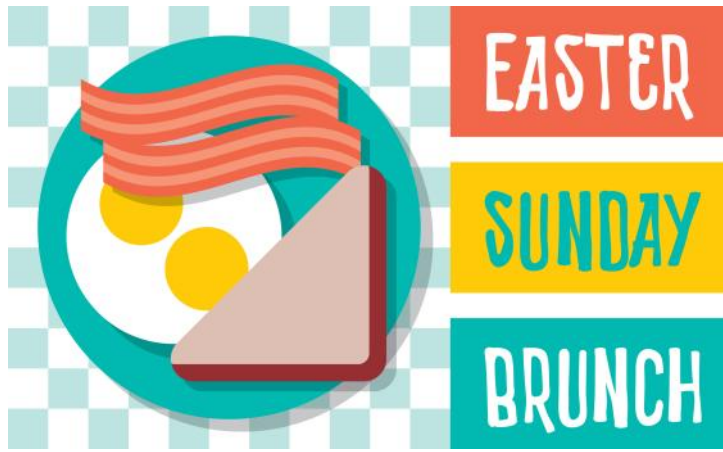
Wednesday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room – We gather for study, reflection, questions, and laughter each week in the Gathering Room. Join us for conversation and community!

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.



Much has been happening the last few months with the kitchen project of our Capital Campaign! Exciting happenings! As of the middle of March, the new cabinets were installed, the countertops were added, the new freezer, refrigerator, and range arrived. The ceiling was lowered in the kitchen, and it is filled with light. The water line was extended to the new coffee bar in the small dining room, and the new Bunn coffee pots are in place – no more 100-cup pots on serving carts!! Round tables have been ordered for the small dining room. Thanks to Bobby Koeplin, Capital Campaign project manager along with other members of the congregation and the many workmen who accomplished all this, and thanks to all of you who supported the Capital Campaign to make this happen. We are getting things back into the kitchen and looking forward to using this space again. Please check it out if you haven't already. You will hardly recognize this transformed space! Now on to the Youth Room!

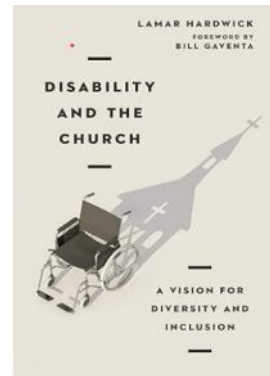
LouVay White, Property Committee Secretary



Join us for brunch on Easter Sunday, 10:00, between services. Serving fruit and cheese, muffins, coffee cakes and other baked goodies, along with coffee and juice.



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 now on TikTok, @oursaviorsvcnd.



Beginning on April 13th, we will begin a book study on Disability and the Church by Lamar Hardwick. During this 8-week study, we will discuss a chapter or two a week as Hard-

wick talks about different ways that Church can be more inclusive to those with varying abilities. This book can be purchased through Amazon for around \$16. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to buy the book themselves. However, if the cost is a hindrance, please contact the office for assistance. We wish for this book study to be accessible for all who wish to participate.



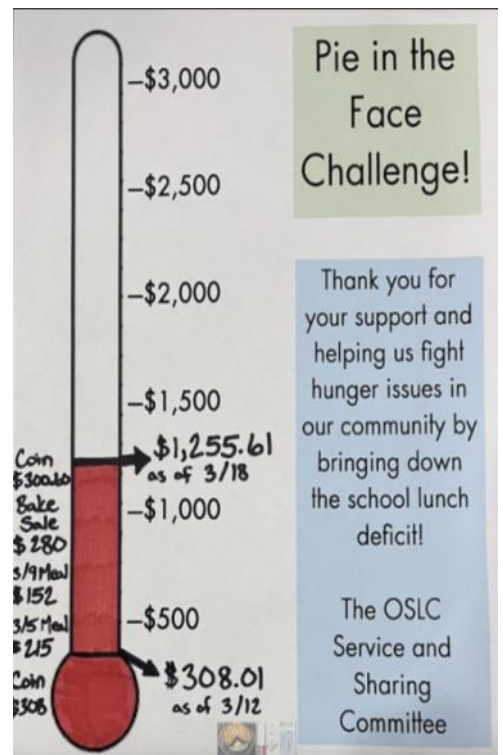
Your trash, someone else's treasure! It's true!! Doing your Spring cleaning? Think of the Treasure Sale to be held here on May 2 & 3. We even have room to store your treasure in the Treasure Room in the basement until May if you need to get rid of it now. Books, household, decorations, toys, etc. - we take it all - except adult clothing and shoes.



LET'S MAKE SOME *Noise!*

The Service and Sharing Committee is excited to share a variety of activities throughout the Lent season. Proceeds raised from these events will offset the cost of food insecurity in Valley City, primarily through paying off school lunch debts. Our goal as a congregation is to raise \$3,000 over the course of the Lent season, or \$500 per week.

Noisy Offering Update: As of March 18, we have raised \$1,265.61! We are half way through Lent, and almost half way to our goal amount of \$3,000. So keep those donations coming....and see which pastor will "earn" a pie in his face! Funds for this Challenge include proceeds from the Lenten Supper free will offering, the Pie sale (March 16), and weekly noisy offering donations in the kettles at the back of the church. Check the poster on the table at the back of the church for weekly updates, and thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve our weekly goals.



Thanks for your support of our Pie Day sale! We used up most of the fruit that has been stored in the freezer, and made \$280 in sales and donations.

Thanks to everyone who purchased a pie....and thanks very much to our pie bakers for their hard work: Lenore Lebahn, Cheryl Olson, Janet Brown, Carol Foth,

Margaret Dahlberg, Kyla Fetsch, Ann Ripplinger, Sarah Wangrud, and Leslie Rohde. Proceeds from this sale were added to the "Pie Challenge" funds, and will be used to help offset the school lunch program deficit.

Lent Activity Calendar: Pick up a paper calendar to help you keep track of all of the activities available to participate in throughout Lent! Calendars will come out every two weeks throughout the Lent season and will be placed on the information counter by the missionary sponsorship calendar.



Radio broadcast of the 9:00 am worship is on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on KOVC 1490 AM. To sponsor a broadcast, please contact the church office. The cost is \$100 and may be gifted in memory or in honor of someone or a significant event. Your gift to this ministry is appreciated.



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 hold Willie, Global Health Ministries, and our partner church in the Central African Republic in regular prayer.

We are church TOGETHER!

Do you crochet or knit? Several members of Our Savior's are meeting weekly to create shawls and lapgans to be given to shut ins, the seriously ill, or bereaved members of our congregation, to provide a warm "hug" and the promise of prayerful support.



The Care Team and pastors will deliver these as they visit those who are suffering, lonely, or ill. Even if you can't attend meetings on Thursdays at 2:00, you can still participate by making shawls or lapgans! Contact Margaret Dahlberg (840-1206) or Janet Brown (845-2910) for details.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There is a sign up sheet for **Coffee and Fellowship Hosts** in the Gathering Room. Hosts are needed for our fellowship times following worship on Sunday mornings. It can be as simple as making sure the coffee is on and running and providing a light treat.

Greeters needed for the North and South side doors to welcome worshippers to the service and hand out bulletins. You would need to be at the church by 8:45. Sign up sheet is on the countertop of the Information Center, under the Missionary Calendar. No experience needed and a great way to meet others in our church community!



Notes from your Treasurer\$\$

I'm writing this message on St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick was a Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland in the fifth century. He was known as the "Apostle of Ireland." While we usually celebrate birthdays, for some reason, March 17, according to Irish legends, is the day that St. Patrick died. His original name was Maewyn Succat, so you could be celebrating Maewyn Succat Day, wear green, and eat Green Eggs and Ham for lunch. That doesn't sound quite right, does it?

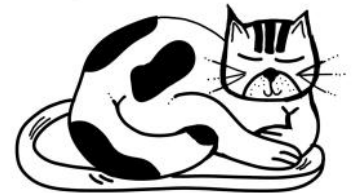
Financially, we are working diligently to stay within our budget. We can only do that with the support of Our Savior's members. January's gifts amounted to \$17,000, while February's support was \$34,000. That sounds great, but looking at the planned expenses of \$367,000 for 2025, our monthly giving should be about \$30,500. Those numbers don't terrify me because I have faith that our great congregation that will help in every way possible.

I was recently asked if a gift could include several projects like missionary calendar, memorials, radio broadcast etc. It certainly can! Just be sure to indicate on the check or envelope, how you want your gift to be used. My request for you is that you always ask questions regarding the church finances.

Our general fund account shows a Thrivent gift that nobody had admitted to giving us. Please let Ann or me know who you are if you want to see that gift reflected in your contribution report. When we don't know who gifted us Thrivent money, it goes down as an unidentified gift.

The Capital Campaign projects left are basically finishing the kitchen and the youth room project. If you walk downstairs, smile as you see the kitchen's progress, and if you venture down some of the hallways, you will notice that the youth room has to be secured from the bottom up.

On the home front, the curious critters seem to have settled down. I'm no longer cleaning up tipped over plants and weird things from the floors—at least not as much as I had been doing. I just walked past my bedroom and three sets of eyes were watching to see if I was carrying any pet food. I think that means I'm on supper detail now.



Enjoy our coming spring!
Janet Brown

BUDGET REPORT

January	\$17,321
February	\$33,789

Total to Date: \$51,110
(Budgeted to date \$50,000)

Amount needed each month
to meet budget: \$25,000

Surplus \$1,110



We are putting together a list of people who are available to help with communion and offering counting when those who are scheduled cannot be there. If you would like to be on this list, please contact the office (845-1328). We greatly appreciate your helping out.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on March 12, 2025. Each of the committees reported on their 2025 goals and activity over the past month.

The **Property Committee** is focused on organizing its work without a property manager; Bobby Koeplin is still handling the renovation work on the kitchen and youth room.

The **Technology Committee** reported significant problems with the computer used for streaming that has resulted in a number of glitches; they will bring a proposal for purchasing a new computer to the next meeting. Their committee goal for 2025 is a major revision to our church webpage.

The **Service and Sharing Committee** is hard at work on this year's goal – to raise \$3000 during Lent to offset some of the public school's hot lunch program debt.

The **Congregational Life Committee** is beginning plans for Graduation Recognition (described elsewhere in this newsletter); their goal is to plan a potluck celebration later this year when the Kitchen is ready for use.

The **Children and Youth Committee** is working on plans for 1st Communion and, later in the year, a Youth Sunday program to increase youth involvement in the church.

The **Worship and Music Committee** plans to increase worship engagement this year, and welcomes suggestions and support from the congregation as they explore various options.

The **Call Committee** presented their final draft of the Ministry Site Profile (their first step in our search for a new lead pastor). Council reviewed and approved the draft, and directed the chair of the committee and council president to upload and submit the profile to the Synod office for final approval from the Bishop. Once this is approved, the profile will be live and the search will have officially begun.

Council then reviewed the Personnel Manual and recommended revisions. Members asked that building and office hours be posted prominently on the doors, Facebook, and the website, so members have reliable ways of knowing when the church building is open.

Two items of interest that were discussed – the Serving Group Roster (currently being updated to include new folks and remove those who are no longer members), and a serious discussion about the viability of the Radio Broadcast. If you have thoughts or concerns about either of these issues, be sure to talk with someone on Council before April 9.

Council Members: Katie Sather, Amelia Belgard, Lacie Maresh, Kyla Fetsch, Nathan Johnson, LouVay White, Sara Wangrud, Tara Anderson, Margaret Dahlberg, Janet Brown, Pr. Rich and Pr. Nicholas.

The Council noted these events in the life of the church:

Deaths: Patricia McDaniel, member

Submitted by Margaret Dahlberg, Council President



OSLC YOUTH

Pre-K - 6th

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School meets each week from 10:00-10:45 am and is open to students Pre-K through 6th grade. Contact Superintendent, Katie Sather, with any questions at oslcsundayschool@outlook.com

FIRST COMMUNION: Students in 3rd grade or older, who have not yet received First Communion but wish to, are invited to attend First Communion education on April 9th at 5:30, followed by our Wednesday Lent worship that evening. First Communion will be celebrated with the people of Our Savior's Lutheran Church on April 17th during our Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:30pm. Please contact Pastor Nicholas if you or your child would like to participate or if you have any questions.

April Notes:

April 6th — The Last Supper
April 13th — Holy Week
April 20th—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
April 27th — Doubting Thomas



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. Nicholas, Pr Rich, 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

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS: Students are expected to attend Wednesday Lent Worship Services. Make sure you are following through with your worship leadership opportunities and worship note expectations. Be in touch with Pr. Nicholas with questions. Classes resume April 23rd at Trinity. **Ninth Grade Parents Meeting April 30th, 7:30.**

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.