

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Valley City, ND

December 2025



Worship Services 9:00am
Sunday School 10:00 am

Coffee and Fellowship
at 10:15am

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 Jared Carson

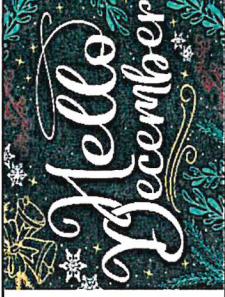

Cell - (218)422-6461

Pastor.oursaviorsvc@outlook.com



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Savior's Lutheran Church | December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:30 Text Study	3 9:30 Bible Study Sounds of the Season 4:30 Exec Team 6:30 Confirm-OSLC 8:00 Sr High Group	4	5 12:00 Sr High Lunch	6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study
7 9:00 Worship w/ Children's Program 9:00 Facebook Live 10:15 Spec'l Congr Meeting 11:00 Radio Broadcast 11:15 Worship KNF	8	9 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:30 Text Study	10 9:30 Bible Study Sounds of the Season 4:30 Exec Team 6:30 Confirm-OSLC 7:00 Committees 8:00 Council	11	12 12:00 Sr High Lunch Pastor's Sabbath	13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study
14 9:00 Worship 9:00 Facebook Live 10:15 Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 Radio Broadcast 6:00 Community Closet Set up	15 11:15 Blood Drive at Stoudt-Miller 5:00 Community Closet 6:30 PEO	16 8:00 Blood Drive at Stoudt-Miller 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:30 Text Study	17 9:30 Bible Study Sounds of the Season 8:00 Sr High Group	18	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study
21 9:00 Worship 9:00 Facebook Live 10:15 Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 Radio Broadcast 11:15 Worship KNF	22	23 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:30 Text Study	Christmas Eve 24 3:00 Family Worship 5:00 Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion	25 No Christmas Day Worship Broadcast of Christmas Eve Worship at 11:00	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 7:30 am Men's Bible Study
28 9:00 Worship 9:00 Facebook Live 10:15 Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 Radio Broadcast	29	30 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:30 Text Study	31			

December Newsletter: A Season of Reflection and Farewell

As we enter the month of December, our hearts are filled with anticipation for the celebration of Christ's birth. The Advent season reminds us of hope, love, joy, and peace—gifts that God so graciously gives to each of us. This is a time to gather with family and friends, to reflect on the blessings of the past year, and to look forward to the promise of a new beginning.

This December, our church will host several special events to mark the season. Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 3pm and 5pm, where we will sing carols and share in the story of Jesus' birth. Our children's Christmas program will be held on December 7th during our usual worship time, and we invite everyone to come and support our youngest members as they share the message of Christmas in their own special way. We will also continue our tradition of music on the Wednesdays of Advent. Please join us in the sanctuary over the noon hour on Wednesdays as we enjoy music from members of our community.

The Gospel writer of Luke tells us of the joy and anticipation of the shepherds at the news of Christ's birth; that they went "with haste" to witness the things that the angels told them. And upon being among Jesus, and Mary and Joseph, they returned rejoicing and praising God for "all that they had heard and seen". May we be like the shepherds, excited to witness the breaking in of God into the world, and what that might mean for us who are living now (the kingdom of God is coming near!). May we also be eager to share the good news of Christ's birth with all those around us, not only in words but in action and love. "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people." Alleluia!

A Farewell from Pastor Nicholas

As many of you know, this month marks the end of my time serving as your pastor. It has been an incredible blessing to walk alongside you in faith, to celebrate life's joys, and to support one another through challenges. I am deeply grateful for the love, kindness, and support you have shown me and my family during our ministry together.

While it is difficult to say goodbye, I am confident that God has wonderful plans for this congregation. I encourage you to continue loving one another, serving your community, and growing in faith. My prayers will remain with you as you enter this new chapter.

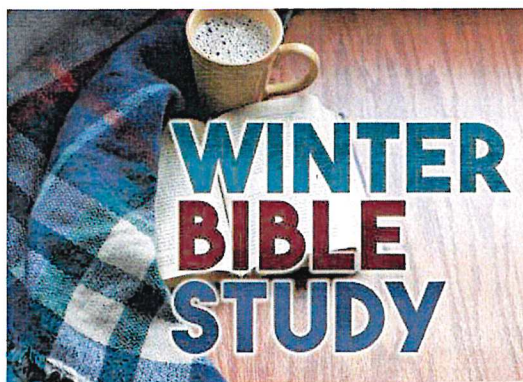
Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives. May the peace of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas and always.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Nicholas



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.

The Service and Sharing Committee spent the fall helping plan and fundraise for the annual Thanksgiving Basket project with Faith Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran. Our Congregation raised an astounding \$3,440 to go toward providing in-need families with a Thanksgiving meal. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to offer 175 free baskets, an increase of 50 baskets from last year!

The committee also helped develop the Time and Talent survey that will allow for more congregation support for our various activities, events and missions. The survey is available digitally and in print. Please make time to complete this and return as soon as you are able.

Embracing our COMMUNITY



Sounds of the Season

We will once again enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" concerts on Wednesdays during December (Dec. 3, 10, and 17), from 12:10-12:50 in the church sanctuary. During this busy month, take time each week to relax over your Wednesday lunch hour with some Christmas music. This year the programs will be streamed on Facebook, so you can listen from your

workplace or home if you can't get to the church for the concert. Many thanks to Judy Karch for organizing this concert series. Featured performers will be (12/3) Brad Edin, (12/10) Faye Bubach and (12/17) Beth Quick Berge. So bring your lunch or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments. The public is welcome to attend.

Farewell to Pr Nicholas

Pastor Nicholas has been serving under call as the Associate Pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church for the past 19 months. He has built meaningful



relationships and supported the ministries of this congregation during that time. This fall the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church voted to move from a two-pastor ministry model to a one-pastor ministry model. This was a difficult decision for the congregation and a difficult decision for Pr. Nicholas. It came with the knowledge that his ministry with Our Savior's Lutheran Church would be ending Dec. 31st, 2025. Pastor Nicholas has faithfully served this congregations and people in the Valley City community for the time that he has been under call. Trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit, it is now time to say good-bye, thank you, and well done good and faithful servant. We invite all congregation participants and friends to join us in worship on Sunday, Dec. 21. Pr. Nicholas will give his final sermon and we will acknowledge the ending of his ministry with a Farewell and Godspeed Litany. After worship there will be a reception and treats to greet Pr. Nicholas and wish him well. We don't know the future, but we trust the Lord of the future will guide Pr. Nicholas and his family into his next call. Cards, gifts, and other signs of your appreciation for Pr. Nicholas and his ministry among us are appropriate. In the weeks ahead, please stop by the office to visit with Pr. Nicholas. Share your personal stories of how his ministry has supported and encouraged you in your walk of faith. Farwell Pr. Nicholas and Godspeed!



The radio broadcast of the Sunday worship still fills a need for people in the community and should continue, provided we can cover the cost. We pay \$100 per broadcast, adding up to about \$6,000 per year including special services at Christmas and Easter. Please consider a donation to help us maintain this ministry opportunity.

Our Savior's is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, December 15th, from 11:15 am to 6:00 pm and December 16th from 8:00 am to 12:45 pm at the Stoudt-Miller Showroom, 325 Winter Show Road. Contact Vitalant at (877)258-4825 to register to donate. A sign-up sheet will also be posted on the information counter under the Missionary Calendar to donate. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts/receptionists. Contact Ruth Larson (701)840-2913 to volunteer.



The Valley City Salvation Army Kettle Campaign needs bell ringers now through December 24th. If you can help for any amount of time (1-2 hrs or more). Please call Naomi Schlecht (701-541-1418) or Lenore Ziemba (701-840-1357). Bell ringing locations will be at PetroServe and Leever's.



The 53rd Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner will be held at St Catherine's Church Dining Hall, December 24th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

For those who will be alone this Christmas, come celebrate Jesus' birthday with other members of our community.

Desserts are welcome, no salads, please.

Financial donations are appreciated.

For questions or to volunteer, please call Deacon Tom Vanorny at 701-210-0640.

If you need transportation: call 845-0354 by 3:00 pm on Tuesday, Dec 23, 2025.

Financial donations can be mailed to:

St Catherine Church,
attn: Christmas Eve Dinner
540 3rd Ave NE
Valley City, ND 58072



JOIN US FOR

MERRY & BRIGHT CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSALS

THURSDAYS 6PM-7.30PM
STARTING SEPT 25TH
Faith Lutheran Church
309 4th St NE

Join our **INCLUSIVE CHOIR!**
Looking for **SINGERS & MUSICIANS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TARA AT
845-1124 EXT 128 OR
EMAIL TARA.ANDERSON@ODCVC.COM

Jamestown Community Women's Choir



Christmas Concert



Sunday, December 7 - 600 PM

St John's Lutheran Church

424 1st Ave S

**FREE AND
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**



With additional performances by several
other talented local ensembles!

Christmas Worship at OSLC



The seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us! There are several opportunities to celebrate the joy and wonder of Jesus' birth this year. **The Sunday School Children of Our Savior's Lutheran Church will lead worship on Sunday, December 7th at 9am with their Christmas program . Don't miss worship as the children delight us with their performance and lead us in song! We will have Two Christmas Eve worship services on Wednesday, December 24th at 3pm and 5pm.**

The 3pm service is a Family Worship w/ Candle Lighting and no Holy Communion. This service will be streamed live on Facebook and will be broadcast on the radio (KOV 1490AM/96.3FM) at 7pm.

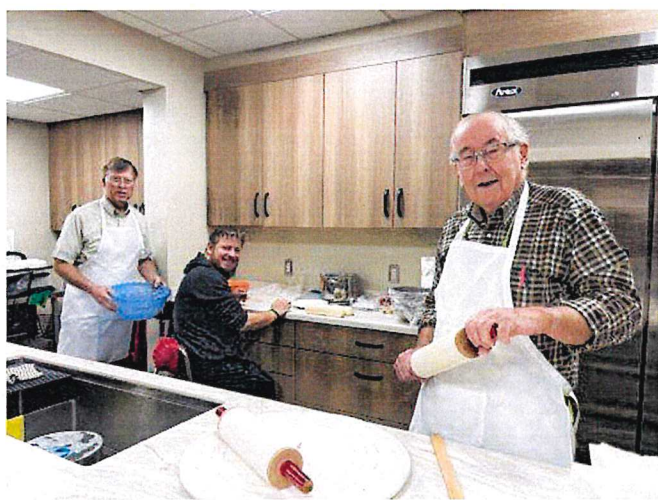
The 5pm service is a Traditional Worship w/ Candle Lighting and will have Holy Communion. This service will be streamed live on Facebook and will be broadcast on the radio (KOV 1490AM/96.3FM) at 11am Christmas Day, December 25th.

The Pastors and the Congregation Council have decided that there will be **NO In-person Christmas Day worship at OSLC this year. Come and Worship the New Born King!**



A BIG thank you to all who contributed baked items, treasures, rolled lefse and contributed in so many ways to the Lefse, Baked Goods, Treasure and Quilt Sale this past

weekend. The WELCA ladies were able to raise over \$3,500 dollars for their work throughout the year. The Good Samaritan Quilters also raised a lot of money to use towards their mission as well! We thank all who helped set up and tear down and those who came to enjoy the rolls and coffee, as well. A good time was had by all.



Many hands make light work!

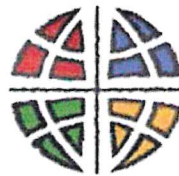


Lefse making 2025



HI-LINER FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Backpack Program/Hi-Liner Pantry is asking for donations of individually wrapped snack items such as granola bars, crackers, cookies and chip – things the counselors can quickly grab, as they have many kids that utilize these snacks at school. They are also planning to add a “snack stash” for Jefferson and Washington Elementary Schools. These items can be dropped off in the tub located in the Gathering Room. The Hi-Liner Food Pantry continues to serve VCHS students and families. Items for the Pantry can also be dropped off in the tub located in the Gathering Room. If you would like to donate financially, please make your check out to Bridges Backpack Program, Inc. 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072.



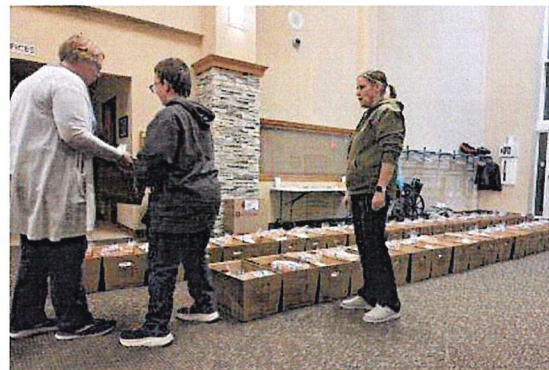
MISSIONARY CALENDAR

The 2025 Missionary Calendar is filling up, but there are still days to sponsor! 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!



Thanksgiving Basket Assembly at Faith. 175 baskets were prepared—50 more than last year! Thanks to all for donating money and/or helping put the basket together.





Notes from your Treasurer\$\$

Where did November go? It seems like it was just Halloween, and now we are looking forward to Advent season and Christmas. I looked at our General Account bank balances as of the end of November for the past 4 years. I targeted payroll because of the many employee changes that have taken place during this time period. The General Fund 2025 balance will change after end of month bills and payroll for November are completed.

<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>Payroll Expense</u>
2022 \$83,000	Payroll Summary \$162,000 (January-November)
2023 \$145,000	Payroll Summary \$101,000 (January-November)
2024 \$77,000	Payroll Summary \$138,000 (January-November)
2025 \$72,000	Payroll Summary \$129,000 (January-October)

The Capital Campaign account has a current balance of \$15,600. I share this information in case you are looking for places to gift money before year's end. It would be great to see the completion of the Youth Room.

We are currently looking at ways each of us can use our time and talents. I have to admit that the devil almost got me! I started comparing myself to others and wondered why I couldn't do what they were doing for Our Savors. Then I had to remember that God gave each of us the talents to complete the assignments He wants us to accomplish. If all of us were blessed with the same gifts, we would be limited to what our congregation could achieve for God's glory. Have fun completing your Time and Talent form. I was reminded this month not to be a Christian orphan, but to ask my Father God what talents He would have me share!! Share your heart with God continually and the Holy Spirit will remind you of the talents you have to share with others.

The furry family on Riverview Drive is prepared for the coming cold weather. Our mid-night visitor, George, may have had a problem with the time change. He's been popping in earlier and staying most of the night. I find I'm disturbing his sleep in the penthouse loft if I walk through the kitchen in the middle of the night. Snoopy and MacArthur remain calm as their dry food is being crunched away in front of them. George seems to be content to eat, sleep, and slowly amble down the steps. I still wonder if he has a permanent residence, and he just stops by for food and a nap, or if he is truly on his own.

Take some time this December to just sit and ponder what God wants you to do. As you quietly sit for a few minutes, you may hear God's gentle voice guiding you. This time may be the high-light of your day!!

Janet Brown





Notes from the November 12, 2025, Council Meeting

- 1) Pr. Jared outlined the communication plan regarding the time/talent and commitment cards later this month. By this time, you should have received several letters regarding this effort, and I hope you have responded! As we begin to plan the 2026 budget, it will be very helpful to have an estimate of expected giving for the upcoming year.
- 2) Further discussion on changing communion procedures: Pr. Jared suggested we consider using both cups and intinction for awhile. He will look into possible options.
- 3) The choir members will meet later this month to discuss options moving forward. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pr. Jared or a choir member.
- 4) The property committee brought forward a recommendation to sell the Chautauqua parsonage. The Council voted to call a special congregational meeting on Dec. 7, 2025, to determine whether or not to move forward with this plan. The rationale for selling includes the following:
 - a) Last September we voted to have only one pastor (starting Jan 1, 2026). We therefore do not need two parsonages.
 - b) Cost of upkeep on an empty parsonage, including lawn care, snow removal, utilities, insurance, and regular inspections to make certain all is well.
 - c) Cost of rental vs. Income: We would have to pay property taxes and continue to maintain the parsonage. Someone would need to act as property manager to ensure the property is rented and remains in good condition.
- 5) Christmas Eve services will be at 3 pm (family service with candlelight) and 5 pm (traditional service with candlelight and communion). Both services will be streamed via Facebook. There will not be a Christmas Day service.
- 6) As the Youth room remodel nears completion, the Property Committee removed the organ located at the back of this space. It is currently in the SE corner of the overflow room. Council approved donating the organ if an interested party can be found.
- 7) **The Council noted these events in the life of the congregation:**
 - a) **Transfer out:** Matt Jorisson family
 - b) **New Members (through confirmation):** Sara Beierle, Jacob Fritchie, Parker Roelfsema, Thomas Schlotman, Zane Wurzer, Chase Cogland

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President



OSLC YOUTH

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

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 7th, 9:00

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECEMBER, CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 5th

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS:

Confirmation classes began in September. Be in touch with Pr. Nicholas with questions. Beginning in November, classes will be held at OSLC.

December 3rd—Gift Shopping or Assembling Treat Bags

December 10th—Gift Wrapping Party

No confirmation December 17th, 24th and 31st

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. **Senior High Youth Group will meet on December 3rd and 17th.**

SENIOR HIGH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE SPOND APP - be sure to sign up so you know the latest info for these activities. See Kyla Fetsch with any questions.