

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

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PAID
Valley City, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2025

MARK
YOUR **CALENDARS!**

**OS FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH
10:10**

**CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
10:00**

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

rohdni01@gmail.com

Interim Pastor Rich Kramer

(701)612-3465

Kramerr2846@gmail.com



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
5 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	6	7 9:00am - Quilters	8 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council	9	10	11 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
12 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am Radio Broadcast	13	14 9:00am - Quilters	15 9:30am Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 8:00 Sr High Youth Group Newsletter articles due	16	17	18 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
19 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 Foundation Annual Meeting 11:00am Radio Broadcast	20	21 9:00am - Quilters	22 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation Com- munity Action Night	23	24	25 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
26 9:00am Worship 9:00am Facebook Live 10:00 am Congregational Annual Meeting 11:00am Radio Broadcast	27	28 9:00am - Quilters	29 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	30	31	



January 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! It was good to be among you in December, my first month with you. As your Interim Pastor, I look forward to learning more about Our Savior's, reflecting with you my observations of the ministries to which you sense God has called you, and helping you prepare for your next pastor.

A couple of things: I heartily recommend you pray for your congregation ("all of y'all," as a colleague of mine once said), that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide your conversations, hopes, dreams, and decisions as you continue into God's future for you all. In due time, let us also pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up someone to serve and lead alongside you, as lead pastor.

I'll observe how ministry happens at Our Savior's; that includes asking a lot of questions. I do so, in order to understand your shared ministry: your histories, practices, challenges, and the energies you have for particular ministries or areas of focus. I sense you all have much to offer the church and world. I look forward to working with you all on this new venture of your impact in the Valley City area and beyond, all for the well-being of our neighbors near and far, and for the well-being of God's world.

In January, we conclude the church season of Christmas and begin the church season of Epiphany. Epiphany can be known as a "season of light." By the year 350 AD/CE, the Church sought ways to a) recognize that Jesus Christ has made God known to the world, and b) give some order to the message of how Jesus said and did so. In worship, we will hear some of the stories of Jesus' early ministry.

Read through your newsletter. Circle, highlight, cut and post items that inspire you, where you can be involved. See you in church!

Peace,

Pastor Rich Kramer

Interim Pastor



**Pick up your
Christ in Our Home
For
January, February,
March
2025**



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!

Connect with us:



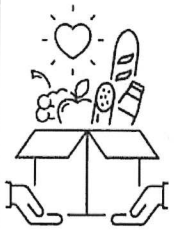
Be sure to stay up to date with all the most current OSLC information and updates by connecting with us on our website, oursaviorsvc.org, and by following us on our social media pages: Facebook, @OurSaviorsValleyCity, and now on TikTok, @oursaviorsvcnd.



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.

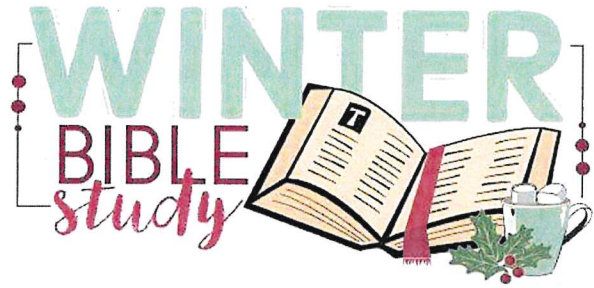


Our newsletter is available online on our website and also available by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter in one of these formats instead of having it mailed, please contact the office.



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.**



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.



2025 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Please save the date for these meetings and plan to join the conversation. We want to make sure your voice is heard.

The Foundation Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19st at 10:10 am in the Conference Room.

The OSLC Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26th at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. We will vote on the annual budget, as well as other church business.

OUR SAVIOR'S COUNCIL UPDATES

President's Corner

At the Council meeting on December 11, Pr. Nicholas opened the meeting with a short meditation on the words of Thomas in John 11, regarding Jesus' decision to go to Bethany (near Jerusalem) during a time when the chief priests and elders were seeking to arrest Him. Thomas says, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." I've always thought this was crazy talk! But Pr. Nicholas pointed out that these words demonstrate both the faith and mission of a believer – to go where He leads, and to give our all to His service. As we begin a new chapter at OSLC, we must be like Thomas, willing to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and give ourselves fully to the ministries set before us.

The business of the Council included the following points:

Adoption of a Parsonage Use Agreement (as recommended by the Property Committee) to outline the expectations of OSLC and the resident pastor.
Start of the Call Process, to include authorization of a congregational survey (included in this newsletter!) to help inform the work of the Call Committee

Discussion of a request from the Nome/Fingal/Kathryn Parish to contract for pastoral services. This would include visitation, funerals, and two Sunday services per month. The Council authorized the Executive Committee to develop a contract and work with the NFK Councils to establish a workable 6-month trial period, with the assent of Pr. Rich and Pr. Nicholas, beginning January 1, 2025.

Authorized Farm Fund distributions of \$124,000 (itemized elsewhere in this newsletter).
Set date for Annual Meeting (January 26, 2025)

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

Deaths: Gerald Gamrath, member; Ethel Gusaas, member.

Margaret Dahlberg, Council President



SYNOD-WIDE BIBLE STUDY

"Threads of Faithfulness: The Story of Ruth" with Dr. Michael Chan

Dates: January 12, January 19, January 26, and February 2

Time: 2:00-3:15pm

Join your siblings in Christ across the Eastern North Dakota Synod via Zoom for a four-week Bible study on the book of Ruth!

The book of Ruth is a remarkable narrative of loyalty, resilience, and faithfulness. Due to tragic loss, Ruth lives on the edge of uncertainty. Her perilous and dangerous journey unfolds with courage and trust as she navigates life as a non-Israelite woman in a foreign land. Her steadfast love and loyalty testify to the power of relationships forged through hardship and perseverance. This study will explore how Ruth's story mirrors themes central to the Eastern North Dakota Synod's values: community, resilience, and relationships. Join us as we delve into this profound story of hope, strength, and connection.

Dr. Michael Chan serves as the Vice President for Mission and Inclusion at Concordia College. Prior to that, he was associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.



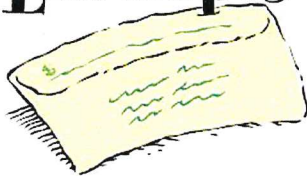
Our Savior's Farm Fund Disbursements for 2024

In 1955, Mr. George Mason bequeathed farm land to Our Savior's Lutheran Church on the condition that any profits generated from it be used to support needs in the wider community. In the years since, the Our Savior's Farm Fund has proved to be a gift that keeps on giving and an essential part of Our Savior's commitment to supporting our neighbors both near and far. This year's disbursements include the following:

- OSLC Foundation -- \$5000
- Global Health/ELCA Global Mission -- \$4000
- Luther Seminary -- \$10,000
- EaND Unrestricted Gift -- \$20,000
- EaND Synod Budget -- \$15,000
- Red Willow Bible Camp -- \$10,000
- Global Refuge (formerly LIRS) -- \$1,000
- Barnes Co. Food Pantry -- \$7,000
- Salvation Army - \$5,000
- South Central Adult Services -- \$5000
- VCPS Foundation (Access for All) --\$5000
- Farm Manager -- \$5000
- Dacotah O'Yate Congregational Support -- \$4000
- UND Christus Rex Campus Ministry -- \$500
- NDSU Campus Ministry -- \$500
- OSLC Growing in Grace Capital Appeal -- \$10,000
- Neighborhood Church - EaND Mission -- \$5000
- Abused Persons Outreach Center -- \$5000
- Bridges Backpack Program/HiLiner Pantry/Summer Pantry -- \$5000
- Dare to Create Foundation for the Arts -- \$1000
- DEI Activity Funding -- \$1000

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS for 2024 -- \$124,000

Offering Envelopes



Beginning in January, we will use a slightly different offering envelope strategy. If you currently receive offering envelopes in the

mail, you will now receive them bimonthly (every 2 months) instead of monthly. If you give online but still receive envelopes in the mail, please let the office know if you would like to opt out of the envelope mailing.



Property Manager Position at OSLC After a number of years, Bobby Koeplin has decided to retire, effective Dec.31, 2024. We appreciate his dedicated service to Our Savior's. We are currently searching for a replacement. This position manages OSLC's apartments and parsonages, along with supporting the infrastructure needs of our church home. Bobby has put together an operations manual to guide the new person when they assume this role. Please contact LouVay White, Margaret Dahlberg, or Pastor Nicholas if you would like more information.



Instant Church Directory™

The 2024 Church Directory is complete and ready for use. If you requested a hard copy of the Directory, please stop by the office to pick up your copy. If you would like a hard copy but forgot to sign up, please give the office a call, and we will print you a copy!

The online version of the directory is available to all members who have an email address. Just go to InstantChurchDirectory.com and use the member sign-in. First time users will have to go through a separate step to verify their identity. If the site does not recognize your email address, it's possible we don't have it on file in the church office! Please contact Ann in the church office and we'll help you get connected.

The directory is also available as a handy phone app – you can download the app (from the App Store) and log in using the email address on file with the church office. Again, contact Ann in the church office if you have difficulties connecting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The work of Our Savior's depends on the volunteer efforts of those who sit on the six committees that comprise our governance structure. Each year the Nominating Committee seeks a few folks to replace those whose terms are expiring. Please consider prayerfully this opportunity to use your interests and gifts to support the work of our congregation. The following positions are open:

**Audit Committee (2), Congregational Life (3), Children and Youth Ministry (4),
Worship and Music (2), Nominating (1), Synod Assembly Delegate (2)**

Don't wait for a phone call from the Nominating Committee! Please contact Brenda White or Ross Powell to volunteer. And THANK YOU for your consideration.



CALL COMMITTEE

As we begin the Call Process to search for Pr. Kyle's replacement, we are asking that all members of Our Savior's complete the Congregational Survey. A copy is enclosed in this newsletter; additional paper copies are available at the church. Completed surveys may be dropped off in the church office or placed in the offering plates. These are due on or before Sunday, January 13, 2025.

We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the Call Committee; we have three so far, and need at least four more to meet the minimum required by our Constitution. This committee will meet several times in February to finalize the Ministry Site Profile, and then sporadically as we receive information regarding available candidates. Please contact Margaret Dahlberg if you are willing to participate in this important process in the life of our church (840-1206, or dahlberg15@hotmail.com).

BUDGET REPORT

January	\$22,569
February	\$33,487
March	\$18,591
April	\$32,566
May	\$15,219
June	\$29,408
July	\$19,121
August	\$16,966
September	\$22,735
October	\$21,071
November	\$19,016

Total to Date: \$250,830
(Budgeted to date \$330,000)

Amount needed each month to
meet budget: \$30,000



Notes from your Treasurer\$\$

FINANCIAL NOTES

Budget, Budget, Budget! I feel a little like Scrooge, studying past budgets, present budgets, and future budgets. As I make end of year payments, payroll, etc., I took time to check on payrolls from 2016 to present and the giving for the same period of time. The wild card in all of this appears to be payroll and employees. As we say good-bye to employees and greet new ones, the QuickBooks and budgeting hiccup a little, and then settle down until the next change takes place.

As we hopefully are wrapping up our huge and successful Capital Campaign, we are thankful for all the many ways you supported this with the giving of your time, prayers and funding.

Looking forward to 2025, the Executive Team and church council will be working to creating a budget proposal that satisfies Our Savior's needs. Pray for us to do this well.

On the home front at Riverview Drive, life is moving along well with the exception of losing Charlie, my brown-nosed cat. Three cats went out to check the premises, but only two returned. We live in hope that Charlie will make his way home again. MacArthur and Snoopy guard the deck from their towering vantage point to check on the squirrels, rabbits, and birds that gather there at different times during the day and night, and yes, the Orange Streak drops by to check out our garage and deck at least once a week.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome 2025 with anticipation of great happenings in your lives and in the life of Our Savior's.
In God's grip,
Janet Brown





OSLC YOUTH

Pre-K—6th

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School meets each week from 10:15-11:00 am and is open to students Pre-K through 6th grade. Contact Superintendent, Katie Sather, with any questions at oslcsundayschool@outlook.com

Thank you to all who made the Sunday School Program a HUGE success!

January Notes:

Jan 5th—The Boy at the Temple

Jan 12th—John the Baptist

Jan 19th—Jesus' Baptism

Jan 26th—Large Group Activity

7th—12th

There will be NO CONFIRMATION on Wednesday, January 1st. Class will return on Wednesday, January 8th.

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS: Class during the month of January will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. A full calendar for the year can be found on our website oursaviorsvc.org. 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 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.

Congregational Survey – OSLC, January 2025

(Please complete and return to the church office or
offering plate on or before Sunday, January 12)

Our Vision for Mission – Ministry Site Characteristics

As you think of our congregation and the way we live out our corporate life and pursue our mission, what characterizes our life together? Please check the box that best describes your opinion about each statement listed below.

Statement	A Lot Like Us	A Little Like Us	Not Like Us
We tend to be formal and programmatic.			
We have clearly defined goals and plans for our future.			
We are racially and economically diverse.			
We welcome ideas that are provoking and challenging.			
We rely on our leaders for direction.			
We perceive conflict as constructive and consider it as an opportunity for change and growth.			
Our facilities are often used by community groups.			
We train people to minister outside our walls.			
We focus on ideas and beliefs.			
We are obviously Lutheran in identity and practice.			
We participate in synod and ELCA activities.			
We focus on Biblical studies and doctrine.			
We seek was to interact with and impact our community.			

Leadership Needs

Select the FIVE most important ministry tasks you think should be required of our new lead pastor:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication & Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism
<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation & Creativity
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal Climate
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care/Visitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Recruit & Equip Leaders
<input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry with Seniors
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in the Larger Church
<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination
<input type="checkbox"/> Music/Worship/Arts
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpret Theology
<input type="checkbox"/> Preaching/Worship Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Daily Life
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Mission Planning |
|--|---|--|

(Continued on Reverse)

Gifts for Ministry

In the left-hand column, select up to five gifts of ministry our new lead pastor **must** bring to our congregation. In the right column, select five more gifts that would be helpful in our congregation. (Assume that the new lead pastor is able to offer worship and preaching.)

Top Priority	Our new lead pastor needs to be able to....	Very Helpful
	Help people develop their spiritual life	
	Help people understand and act upon issues of social justice	
	Be active in visitation of members and non-members	
	Be effective in working with children	
	Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry	
	Be an effective administrator	
	Be an effective communicator	
	Be an effective teacher	
	Work regularly in the development of stewardship growth	
	Be effective in working with youth	
	Be skilled in planning and leading programs	
	Deal effectively with conflict	
	Bring joy and good humor to relationships	
	Be able to share leadership and work in a team	
	Be creative and innovative about his or her tasks	
	Be able to use technology and media.	
	Provide care and nurture	
	Encourage support of the church's mission to neighbors near and far	

Please share your Hopes, Expectations, and Concerns for our Congregation

In the space below, please detail the areas of focus that you believe our next lead pastor will need to give special attention to.

(Please complete and return to the church office or offering plate on or before Sunday, January 12)