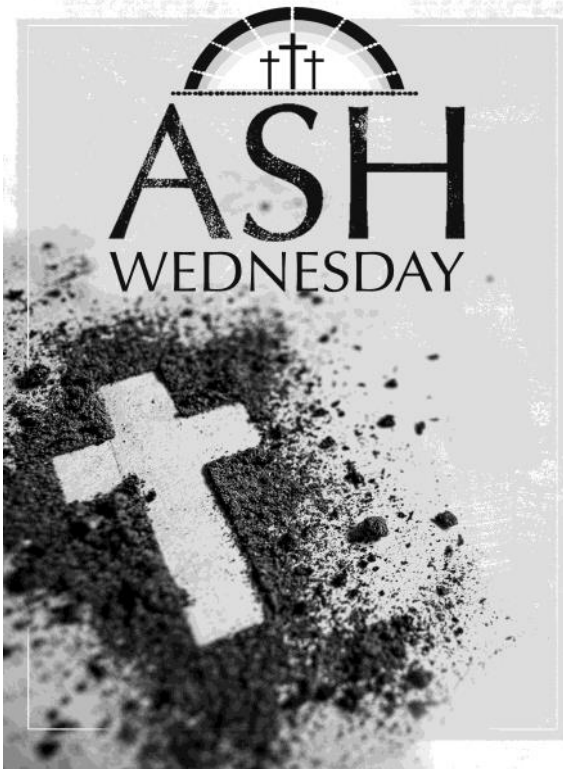


Our Savior's Lutheran Church
138 3rd Street Northwest
Valley City, ND 58072

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Valley City, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2025



March 5, 2025
Worship 6:30 pm

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

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
2 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	3	4 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:30 pm Worship 8:00 pm Sr High	6	7	8 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
9 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	10	11 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	12 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Committees 8:00 pm Council	13	14	15 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
16 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Bible Study 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	17 6:30 pm PEO	18 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	19 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:30 pm Worship 8:00 pm Sr High	20	21	22 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
23/30 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	24/31	25 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	26 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:30 pm Worship	27	28	29 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship



Greetings all,

We will soon be in the church season of Lent. Our Wednesday evening Lent worship services will focus on messages of some prophets of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. We will hear from pastors of Our Savior's, Faith, and Trinity Lutheran churches here in Valley City on a rotating schedule each Wednesday evening. Come, join in, connect with God and one another.

I offer some insight about the season. Lent, a word which comes from an Old English word meaning "to lengthen", is the church calendar season of 40 days, not including Sundays, which during worship, we prepare to again hear of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday. During Ash Wednesday worship, ashes are placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. Ashes are a sign of repentance, remorse, and confession. We admit we have sinned; we symbolically present ourselves before God to ask God's forgiveness. In some cultures of the past ashes were also a sign of cleansing when they were mixed with olive oil. When the ashes are traced onto our foreheads, we hear the words, "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." These words remind us of our mortality: we are not invincible; our lives are about more than accumulating, security, and power. Even more deeply, we are reminded that we matter to God if we ever feel overlooked by others. And we are part of something bigger than ourselves: the message of love, grace, truth, and mercy of God through Jesus lived into God's world for all to hear and experience.

Lent has 40 days. Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days, as the church understands each Sunday to be "a little Easter." Forty is a symbolic number in the Christian tradition: there were 40 days and nights of pouring rain when Noah, family, and animals were in the ark. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years following their freeing from Egypt (the Exodus), by the LORD their God. Jesus was in the desert for 40 days, praying, and was tested by the devil before Jesus began his ministry. During Lent, we are able to acknowledge the strains and difficulties of life.

The color of the season is purple: we are reminded of the purple robe Jesus was mockingly clothed with when he was scourged by Pilate's soldiers the day of his crucifixion. Purple is also a color of royalty and reminds us Jesus is not a political earthly king, and he is the king of heaven and earth.

This is but a portion of what Lent is and can be for us. Join together at Our Savior's as together we worship God, study, and enjoy community. May we all may come to know more of God and ourselves these weeks of Lent.

See you in church!

Richard Kramer

Pr. Rich
Interim Pastor





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.



We are assembling a list of people who are willing to read, serve communion or count on short notice: you would be contacted by Ann if someone needs a sub for the upcoming Sunday. If you are willing to have your name on the list, please contact Ann in the office. Thanks!

Sunday Bible Study 10:15 Conference Room



Join us for a 5-Sunday Bible and topic study beginning Sunday, March 9, following worship. We will learn about ELCA World Hunger and social ministry organizations dedicated to ending hunger at its roots. These organizations work together to care for communities and shift social imbalances. Come explore together how Jesus' followers in various places are impacting the world for good through Jesus' message and the work of their hearts, hands, and voices.



We are looking for groups or families to prepare and serve meals before the Lent Services each Wednesday during Lent. If interested, either contact the church office (845-1328) or Margaret Dahlberg (840-1206) to volunteer.

Connect with us:



@OurSaviorsValleyCity



@oursaviorsvcnd

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 Tik-Tok, @oursaviorsvcnd.



Congregational Care

Do you enjoy visiting with people on an individual basis? Are you comfortable at care facilities and in another's home? Do you like to talk....and listen? Not afraid to pray with someone? If you affirm any of these you could be part of a Caring Ministry Team at Our Saviors! This can be a great way you can have a positive impact on, and be Jesus' presence for, someone. Even a faint amount of interest counts. Guidance and training provided. Please contact, or talk with, Pastor Rich.



As you are doing your spring cleaning, remember the WELCA ladies here at Our Savior's will be having their annual Treasure Sale in early May. You can bring items to donate anytime. If you have any questions, please contact LouVay White or Jan Stowman.



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 Coin War:** Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing every Sunday and Wednesday throughout Lent, we will have a "Noisy" Offering Coin War during the service. Bring not only your loose change, but also your bills! Pastor Nicholas and Pastor Rich will each have a bucket in which to collect your coins and bills. Coins will produce a "positive" total for that person and bills will produce a "negative" total. Whoever has the higher total at the end of Lent will get to put a whipped cream pie in the other pastor's face! Remember, every cent makes an impact!
- **Lent Meals:** Also starting on Ash Wednesday is the pre-service Lent meals that will take place on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. As the kitchen is not yet complete, the gathering room will be used and groups should plan to make simple meals with disposable dishes. If you're interested in preparing and serving a Lent meal, please talk to Margaret Dahlberg or contact the church office.
- **Pie Making / Bake Sale:** On Saturday, March 15th, grab a bag of frozen cherries or blueberries (from the church) and bake a pie-or your favorite dessert-to be sold after the service on Sunday, March 16th. The Our Savior's kitchen may be ready by this date and if so, can be used for pie making - stay tuned for more details!
- **Bible Study:** Pastor Rich will host an ELCA Lenten Study, starting the Sunday after Ash Wednesday and running for five weeks. It will be held in the Conference Room following service and includes information about ELCA World Hunger at work in the world.
- **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.

The Service and Sharing Committee thanks you in advance for your support and for your contribution to helping offset food insecurity for our neighbors right here in Valley City!



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? Are you interested in helping form a Prayer Shawl Ministry here at OSLC? There will be an organizational meeting March 2nd in the conference room after the worship service to discuss opportunities in this project. If you are unable to attend the meeting or have questions, you can contact Margaret Dahlberg (840-1206) or Janet Brown (845-2910)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Altar Committee** is looking for a couple more volunteers who would set up communion for Sunday worship. This is usually done earlier in the week. Please contact Ruth Nathan for more information or if you can help out.

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\$\$

Greetings to all of you! I'm sure that we are all looking forward to warmer weather.

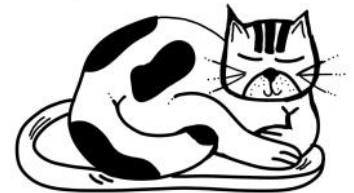
On December 31, 2024 OSLC had \$97,000 in our General Account. The General Account takes care of all the regular expenditures of general supplies, utilities, payroll etc. At OSLC's annual meeting you approved a new budget that totaled \$368,000 for expenditures and \$300,000 in income. The Executive Committee worked hard on this budget, trimming whatever we felt we could. Breaking this down a little more, our expenditures should be approximately \$31,000 per month. We had expenditures of almost \$45,000 in January. Those expenditures included our annual property insurance payment of \$15,000 and the Otis Elevator annual maintenance payment of \$1,022. OSLC's income in January was \$17,000.

Thank you for all the ways that your support Our Savior's. It is my prayerful hope that since we are on the last two major items for the Capital Campaign, we will all support our General Account generously.

The other ways I see you supporting Our Savior's is with your hands and hearts. Almost every time I enter the church building, I find people working on projects: God's work, our hands. It warms my heart and I am sure that God is smiling down on all of you! Whatever your talents are, we have room for you.

Now, on the home front: Jigger is starting to feel his age for a dog and is completely happy sleeping a good share of his day. MacArthur and Snoopy make enough noise as they chase each other up and down steps. (Too cold to be outside.) They are very respectful when the Orange Streak makes his nightly visits to clean out the food dishes. I think he's getting a little braver with each visit as he doesn't shoot out the door quite so fast. We may be friends yet!

Take care and stay upright! Spring is on its way!



Janet Brown

BUDGET REPORT

January \$17,321

Total to Date: \$17,321
(Budgeted to date \$25,000)

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

Shortfall (\$7,679)

As part of the kitchen remodel, we have a white Whirlpool side-by-side refrigerator freezer that needs a new home. It is free to a congregational member but you need to haul it away. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Dahlberg at 480-1890.

Measurements are 66 1/2 (H) x 33 (W) x 29 1/2 (D) and you can look at it in the main dining room downstairs.

Remodeling Project





Church Council met on February 12. After welcoming several new council members, the council reviewed the treasurer's report for January. Income for the month of January was \$17,312, which is \$5,000 less than last January. Given our anticipated offering income of \$300,000 for the 2025 budget year, we need \$25,000 each month to achieve this goal.

Property Committee reports that the floor in the kitchen and small dining room is complete and most of the cabinets are installed. **Service and Sharing Committee** noted their preparations for the upcoming Lenten Season, which will focus on world hunger and, more particularly, on food insecurity at the local level. **Worship and Music Committee** indicated that they are planning to explore the addition of contemporary worship elements in our Sunday service. Each committee was charged with setting a goal for the upcoming year – an activity that is not currently in their regular duties but fits within their “mission” and will increase congregational engagement. We'll report on these goals next month!

The Council appointed the **Call Committee for Lead Pastor**, to include Cadence Fetsch, Jason Manlove, Judy Karch, Brooke Gubrud, Mindy Tvedt, Matt Jorissen, Dave Carlsrud, Pat Edinger, Tara Anderson, Audrey Pouka, and Kevin White. They also appointed Leslie Rohde to the Worship and Music committee (at her request) and Tara Anderson as the council liaison to the Foundation Board.

After discussion regarding Our Savior's mission within the community, the Council directed Pr. Nicholas to form a task force to explore the Sanctuary Church movement to determine what makes sense for our congregation.

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

Deaths: Judy Olstad, member; Gerald Nelson, member.

New Members: Brooke & Brian Gubrud, Ree, Holt; Howard Lahlum

Many thanks to the folks who have stepped up to help with various committees and activities this year! Whether you support the church financially or through your gifts of time, talent, teaching, and leadership, we are thankful for the many ways that our members demonstrate that We Are the Church Together.

Margaret Dahlberg, 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

March Notes:

- March 2nd— Jesus Feeds 5,000
- March 9th — Egg Hunt
- March 16th—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- March 23rd—Zacchaeus
- March 30th—The Great Commandment

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.

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.