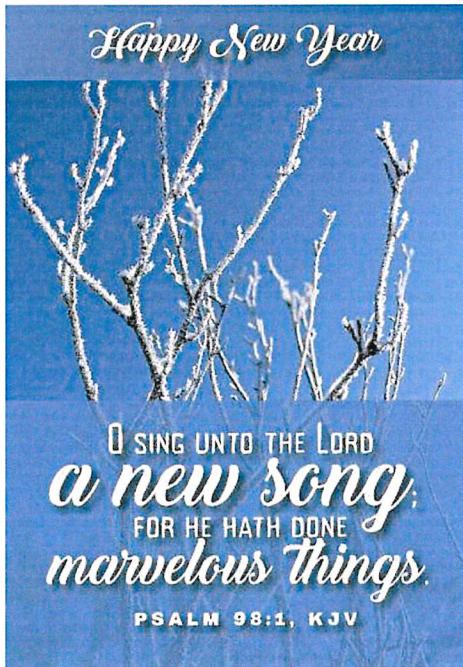


Our Savior's Lutheran Church
138 3rd Street Northwest
Valley City, ND 58072

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Valley City, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2026



Church Building Hours

Tuesday— Wednesday
9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Monday, Thursday, 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 Jared Carson

Cell - (218)422-6461

pastor.oursaviorsvc@outlook.com

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

**Coffee and Fellowship
at 10:15am**



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Savior's Lutheran Church | January 2026





OUR SAVIOR'S NEWS

Guiding members and friends in faith and service with God's enduring love.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

January 4
10:00am

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

January 18
In worship at 9:00am

ANNUAL MEETING

January 28
After worship
in the Santuary at 10:00am

A New Look to the Newsletter

You will notice that the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Newsletter has a new layout and masthead. We are still looking for a creative and catchy title for this publication. Please contact Pr. Jared with your suggestions.

Pastor's Message - A New Year Full of Hope

Happy New Year! As we move into this new year, may the joy and hope of the Incarnate One, whose birth we have just celebrated continue to be born in your heart each day.



There is something special about a new year that gives us a clean slate or a blank canvas. Part of this cultural reset is the practice of making resolutions. Many of us will make resolutions (some that we may even keep). But as people of

the Christian faith, it might be helpful to shift the focus away from our resolutions and instead focus on the resolution of our God. As we celebrate the festival days of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus in the beginning of 2026, God's resolve and resolute promises are on display for us and the world. God comes into a broken and hurting world with healing, forgiveness, and love in the person of Jesus. Some of the first people to recognize God at work in the world are magi, outsiders from a foreign land (cf. Matt 2:1-12). In his baptism, Jesus is commissioned in the waters to serve others, be the embodied Good News, and proclaim God's nearness (Luke 3:21-22). By our own baptism into Christ, we are joined to Jesus and share in his mission. This is really a special time of year for us

Pastor Jared Carson

Intentional Interim Pastor
pastor.oursaviorsvc@outlook.com
218-422-6461

in the Church because it reorients our lives as disciples of Jesus in order to proclaim God's resolute intent FOR us and FOR the world (not *against* us or others). We are disciples of Jesus Christ, not by our choosing (although some might think this is so), but because God has called and gathered us in the tether of the Holy Spirit, just like fish in a net. Because of God's resolute action for us, we pass on the stories of the faith. We share the stories of how we believe God is working in our lives. Our witness as disciples is most evident in the world, when we love and serve our neighbors, without reserve, trusting in the resolution of our God that is unbreakable.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is entering a new chapter of ministry as it moves from two pastors to one pastor. Many of you are aware, that I am your interim Pastor. My role is to assist the congregation through a time of transition. The Congregation Council at my urging has released the Call Committee from its duties, so that we can address the changing needs and expectations on a solo pastor. This month, the Congregation Council will be participating in a day-long retreat to talk about the transition process, staffing needs, and how to engage the congregation in the transition work. In the coming months, I will facilitate some Congregation Listening Sessions and hope that each person connected to Our Savior's will make time to participate in the transition process. Additionally, we are excited to share that Kyla Fetch is starting a new position as the Faith Formation Coordinator, effective January 1' 2026. You can read more details about the Faith Formation Coordinator position and Kyla's role in another article of this Newsletter.

Trusting in God's resolve, we recommit ourselves to our baptismal calling: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ Jesus through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the world. We trust in God's resolution because, Emmanuel, God IS with us! Amen.



OSLC Radio Broadcast

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.

Women of Our Saviors (WELCA) News

All women of Our Saviors are considered members and are encouraged to participate in any way that they are able. Thank you to so many of you who helped make our Fall activities so successful.

We support many mission projects but our primary project is Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts. With so much need world-wide, the response from Our Saviors Lutheran should be celebrated! Thank you so much to all who have worked on these projects and who have donated the needed items. We are thankful to Thrivent who has a generous grant program, that many of our members take advantage of to purchase needed items. A special thank you to the Good Samaritan Quilters who meet on Tuesday mornings to make the beautiful quilts. This group always welcomes new members—no experience in quilting is necessary—there is a variety of jobs available! This year 106 Quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief and many others are given to local organizations that are in need.

Totals for Kits in 2025 were 353 School Kits; 150 Personal Care Kits; and 82 Baby Care Kits. Women of Our Saviors gave \$1500 for the shipping of these items.

Women of Our Saviors holds two special events to raise funds to give to many worthwhile non-profit organizations and for church needs. A Treasure Sale was held in May with over \$4,400 raised. The Treasure Sale will be held on May 1,2,2026. The Lefse, Bake and this year Holiday Treasure Sale was a big success—570 lefse were made in 4 1/2 hours, thanks to a great crew of men and women lefse makers! Never a problem selling lefse right before Thanksgiving! All the lefse, the wonderful baked items and the beautiful Holiday items sold added up to \$3,500 in profits! Thanks to all who made these events so successful. Now what does Women of Our Saviors do with these dollars??

Besides the \$1,500 for LWR shipping, the following donations were made in 2025: \$1,000 to the School Lunch Program; \$1000 to Churches United; \$500 to APOC; and \$250 to the Christmas Dinner held at St. Catherines. We are also making plans to replace the very old and heavy 8ft tables in the large dining room. We give dollars to the radio broadcast in memory of those whose funeral has been at Our Saviors.

There is a planning committee that meets before and after the special events. We consider the needs of the dining room and kitchen and make financial decisions at the end of the year. Twelve women are currently on this Women of Our Saviors Board but there is always room for more. Your opinions and leadership would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you so much for all you have done to continue the mission of Women of Our Saviors in 2025! God Bless You!

- Jan Stowman

New Staff—Faith Formation Coordinator

I'm excited to be back! Education and youth ministry have been a large part of my life for the past many years with seven of them being a part of the OSLC church staff, and ten years in various teaching positions. I am excited to once again be a part of the OSLC staff, this time as the Faith Formation Coordinator. I look forward to working with both youth and their families as we grow in faith together.

Some of my focus areas will be: Senior High Lunch, Sunday School, Senior High Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, and a summer youth trip. I am passionate about helping families develop a strong, lasting foundation in their faith together. Over the next six months, you can expect the same amazing programs to continue, along with some new, intentional opportunities and events created to help your family connect and grow in faith together.

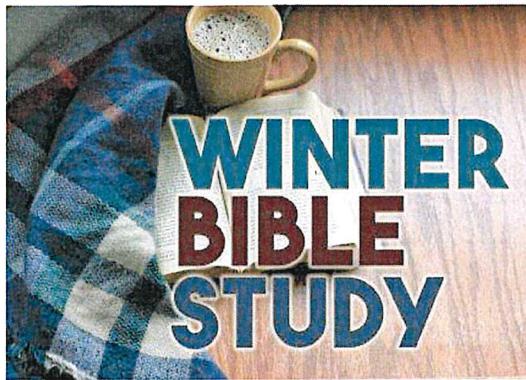


Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Prayer Service

In the gospel according to John, we hear Jesus' high priestly prayer, asking the Father to give unity to his followers, "The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one." (John 17:22, NRSVue) As Lutheran Christians, we acknowledge God's desired unity as we confess the Nicene Creed, "We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church." The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is organized annually by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and observed by Christian congregation around the world between the Confession of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25). The Barnes County Ministerial Association is hosting a prayer service to kick-off the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Raphael Care Center Chapel at 3pm on Sunday, January 18. Pr. Jared will be the speaker at the Prayer Service. Come join Christians from a variety of traditions as we pray for the Unity that God in Christ desires.



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.

ANNUAL MEETING



Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the 9:00 service on January 25th 2026. Keep an eye out in the new year for the annual report, which will be available for review earlier in the month.

New Member Orientation

Sharing God's Love



Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be **receiving New Members in worship on Sunday, Jan.**

18. Those who are interested in aligning themselves with the mission of this community of faith are invited to a New Member Orientation. The 2-session orientation will be **Sundays, January 4 and January 11 at 11am in the Conference Room**. We will be talking about the congregation's Mission, Core Values, specific ministries, and how to be involved in this caring Christian community. If you are interested in membership, but can't make these dates, please contact Pastor Jared.



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!**



FOUND:

2 gift cards

December 22nd, in the OSLC parking lot.

Please call the office to identify and claim them.

**January 2026****Notes from your Treasurer**

I am such a creature of habit. Each month as I prepare to write my newsletter article, I look at what I wrote other years for the same month. Numbers may change but people and responsibilities don't change that much. December is a beautiful month for personal family memories and activities, and that is also true at Our Saviors. I was blessed to be a part of both Christmas Eve services this year. Truly amazing to see the packed pews and smiling friends celebrating the birth of Jesus together!

As Treasurer, December sees me studying the budget, doublechecking to see that all expenses are accounted for and in the correct categories and that all the giving has been designated properly. The Executive Committee (Council officers, pastors, treasurer) review the General Fund budget designations to see where we should make appropriate changes for the new year before we present a new budget to the Council in January for their input and endorsement. From there it goes to you at OSLC's annual meeting for approval.

We also review the accounts that are not part of the General budget, but very important to OSLC: Building Fund (church, apartments, parsonages maintenance), Missionary Fund, and Capital Campaign accounts.

OSLC is such an important part of my life, but so is family and health. It is with a content heart that I submitted my resignation as treasurer effective March 31, 2026 to OSLC Council in December. I had been pondering this decision for awhile until God spoke to me through one of my devotions. He told me to be me and to wear my own shoes as I walk into today's tasks. I'm not sure where that is leading me, but I'm confident He will let me know what is next in my life.

On the home front on Riverview Drive I found out that I have been sharing my painting room with the Orange Streak. While I renamed him George, Orange Streak is still very descriptive; although he does stop to listen to my voice sometimes before he makes his getaway. The jury (MacArthur, Snoopy and Jigger) aren't too sure that he belongs in their home as I listen to their discussions on the subject.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome 2026 with anticipation of great happenings in your lives and in the life of Our Savior's.

In God's grip,

Janet Brown





Council Highlights – December 10, 2025

- 1) The Council thanked Kyla Fetsch for her management of Senior High Lunch this past fall and approved a stipend of \$1200 for her work during Fall 2025.
- 2) The Executive Committee informed Council that Kyla has agreed to be our new "Faith Formation Coordinator," beginning January 1, 2026. This is a half-time position. Kyla's primary responsibility will be children and youth activities, including Sunday School, youth group, VBS, and Senior High Lunch.
- 3) Council authorized the Council President to initiate the process of selling the Chautauqua parsonage, to include signing all listing paperwork.
- 4) Farm Fund distributions: Council approved distribution of \$120,000 from the Farm Fund, to include gifts to the Synod, Luther Seminary, Red Willow Bible Camp, and various local needs.
- 5) The Annual Meeting date is set for Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 10:15 in the Sanctuary.
- 6) Treasurer Janet Brown submitted her resignation, effective March 31, 2026. Council will begin searching for her replacement. If you (or someone you know) might be interested, please contact Pr. Jerad to discuss your interest.

7) The Council noted these events in the life of the congregation:**Death: Lila Bemis****Margaret Dahlberg, Council President****2025 FARM FUND DONATIONS**

Luther Seminary	\$10,000	EaND Unrestricted Gift	\$20,000
EaND Synod Budget	\$30,000	Red Willow Bible Camp	\$10,000
Senior High Lunch	\$5,000	Barnes Cty Food Pantry	\$4,000
Salvation Army	\$5,000	South Central Adult Svcs	\$5,000
VCPS (Access for All)	\$5,000	Dacotah O'Yate Support	\$4,000
UND Christus Rex	\$500	NDSU Campus Ministry	\$500
OSLC Growing in Grace	\$10,000	EaND Neighborhood Church	\$1,000
Abused Persons Outreach Ctr	\$5,000	Bridges Backpack/HiLiner Pantry	\$5,000



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

January 5th - Jesus goes to Nazareth

January 12th - The Disciples

January 19th - Four Friends

January 26th - Group Activity (Annual Meeting)

7th - 12th

CONFIRMATION FOR 7th – 9th GRADERS:

Confirmation classes began in September. Be in touch with Pr. Nicholas with questions. This month, classes are held at OSLC. Beginning in February, classes will be held 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.

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.

SENIOR HIGH LUNCHES ARE ON FRIDAYS AT NOON IN THE DOWNSTAIRS DINING ROOM