



OUR SAVIOR'S NEWS

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Last Day of SS, May 3
SS singing in Worship

CONTACT US

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BUILDING HOURS

Mon, Thur, Fri: 9 - 1
Tues, Weds: 9 - 4:30
Sunday: 8 - noon

“God who is like a mother” – Language for addressing God

Language matters. Language has power to shape our thinking. Language both reflects and forms our attitudes and actions. In 2013, the ELCA revised a Worship FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document called, “How is language used in worship.” This document helps pastors, worship leaders, and others think about how we use language. Copies of this resource are available online. The document says, “As language shapes and influences human perceptions, the language we use for God shapes and influences our perceptions of God.”



It's important that we take time to consider the language we use to describe God and the language we use to address (or call out to) God. It is commonly agreed upon in Christian theology that God is beyond physical gender. Though it is true that God has often been described using masculine language. Because language is created and used by humans, it reflects the imperfections and limitations of our human experience. “Therefore, no use of language can ever totally describe or represent the fullness of God. This is not an excuse, nor does it give us permission to be careless with our words. Instead, we should be more aware of the language we use.

As we approach Mother's Day, we can use the simile, “God who is like a mother” to contemplate the ways God nurtures and tends to each of us and all creation. And when we use feminine imagery for God, it is more suggestive of the loving and trusting relationship between a parent and a child. Think about the text of Psalm 91:1-4, which likens God's

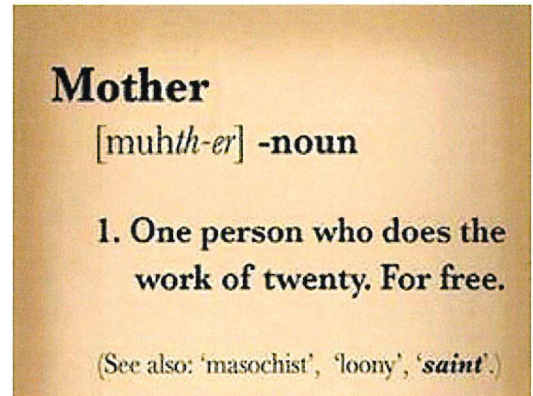


Our newsletter is available online on our website and also available by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter in one of these formats instead of having it mailed, please contact the office.

protection to that of the wing of a mothing bird or hen. Perhaps it is this Psalm that Jesus has in mind when he expresses his desire to gather up the broken and bruised people of Jerusalem “like a mothering hen” in Luke 13:34. The Hebrew word for Spirit used in the Old Testament is a feminine noun and uses a feminine definite article.

Mother’s Day can be a challenging day for some people. We recognize that because of human sin, not everyone has good experiences with parents that are all together positive, even mothers. We grieve that some people experience pain on this day. And I invite us to contemplate the good maternal relationships that we have/had with our mothers or others who have been a mothering presence in our lives. We give thanks to God for them! These positive references give us a glimpse and experiences that we can use as attributes for God’s parental presence in our lives.

I believe this quote from the Jodie Picoult book, My Sister’s Keeper, sums up my experience with moms and our mothering God very well. “(24/7) once you sign on to be a mother, that’s the only shift they offer.” Many of us may recognize the laborious and exhausting task of mothers. We can see this image of maternal love in the faces of our own parents, friends, co-workers, others in our congregation, or even when we look in the mirror. This 24/7/365 labor of love is God’s maternal expression for creation and everything in it. God is just this motherly toward us. God who made humanity, both male and female, in God’s own image and likeness. Scripture shows us a motherly God who invites us to be just as ardent in our own walk of faith, as we tend and nurture the faith of others.



So, this Mother’s Day, we give thanks to mothers and those who have been like mothers in our lives. For they have been formed in God’s likeness, and they have the ability to reveal for us a glimpse of the God we meet in scripture. Blessed Mother’s Day, thanks be to God for you!

Faithfully Yours
Pr. Jared Carson


May 10th is Mother’s Day! Don’t forget to show not just moms, but all those important women in your lives how much they mean to you.

Fun Fact:

This holiday was 1st celebrated in the United States in 1907.

Pastor Jared Carson

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



ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK

The 46th Annual
Valley City/Barnes County
CROP WALK (1 mile)

Wednesday, May 6th
7pm

Jefferson Elementary

Walk to Raise Money,
Walk and Learn,
Walk with Friends and Family
Do Good, Love Your Neighbor!

Come Walk the “Jefferson Mile!” Our Savior’s along with others in Valley City/Barnes County are walking to raise awareness and money to end hunger. The Service and Sharing Committee will set-up an activities table along the walking route to teach about food and water insecurity. Sign-up to walk with us, bring a donation, and ask others to sponsor your walk!

Memory Cafe at Faith - May 28th

1pm -3pm



The Sheyenne Valley Memory Cafe meets the 4th Thursday of the month September through May at Faith Lutheran Church. It is a way to connect people with early-onset dementia or Alzheimer’s and their caregivers/family members and provides access to resources. For more information, contact City-County Health at 701-845-8518.



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE ARE HIRING!



CHOIR DIRECTOR
OFFICE COORDINATOR/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Our Savior’s Congregation Council is moving forward with the hiring process for two staff positions. Please help us spread the word as we seek qualified applicants. We are looking for:
Choir Director, and
Office Coordinator/Financial Secretary. Interested persons should visit the church website, jobs page for more information.

<https://oursaviorsvc.org/jobs.php>



**New Display
in the
Information
Area**

Take a moment to check out the new display in the Information Area! Margaret Dahlberg has put together a display detailing the stained glass windows throughout the worship areas of Our Savior’s. Some of the topics include Christ’s life and teachings, the Apostles, and other important figures in the bible. She has also prepared a sheet with each window labeled for you to take home with you.



10 young people received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Activities surrounding this special milestone included instructions with Pastor Jared and baking bread for the service on that day.



The Senior High Youth Group participated in a Bible Verse Easter Egg Hunt! The 2 teams raced to find their team's colored eggs which included quotes from the Bible that they then unscrambled to complete the scripture passage!

Would YOU like to be a Confirmation mentor?

We are looking for adults of all ages to be mentors to our 9th grade confirmation students as they prepare for their confirmation in October. The commitment is minimal; just four, one hour conversations held between June and September. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Kyla Fetsch.

Noisy Offering
Sunday, May 31

Bring your coins (and bills) to worship!
The children of OSLC will be collecting a Noisy Offering after the Children's Message to benefit the Red Willow Bible Camp!

 **OUR SAVIOR'S**
LUTHERAN CHURCH





Our Savior's Youth



Sunday School

PreK - 6th Grade - Sundays 10:15-11:00am

May 3rd - Last Day of Sunday School Celebration & Singing at the 9am Worship Service!

VBS May 26-28!

12:30-5pm May 26-28 at OSLC for youth entering grades K-6 in August!
Registration is open now! To sign up, simply scan the QR code to the right,
or go to: <https://form.jotform.com/240864442295057>



Confirmation

7th - 9th Grade - Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

The last day of Confirmation will be held on **May 6th** at the Crop Walk. We will meet at Jefferson Elementary School at 6:30pm and the walk will begin at 7pm.

9th Grade Confirmation Students!

We will meet in the Gathering Room from 6:30-7:00pm on Wednesday, May 13th to go over the responsibilities and requirements that must be completed prior to being confirmed in October. Students planning to be confirmed must be in attendance with at least one parent.

Senior High Youth Group

10th - 12th Grade - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month

The last day of Senior High Youth Group will be **May 6th**. We will meet at Jefferson Elementary School at 6:45pm to participate in the Crop Walk at 7pm. Afterward we will enjoy games, activities, treats and fellowship. Join us as we celebrate our amazing seniors and pray over them as they prepare for their upcoming graduation.

Stay up to date on these activities and more! Join us in the Spond app with the code SSSZZ

Senior High Lunch

Open to all students in grades 9-12 at 12:10pm each Friday when there is school.

This month, we will have lunch together **May 1, 8, and 15.**

Want to know what's for lunch each week? Join us in the Spond app with the code HQIKQ

Summer Youth Trip: July 20th - 21st

Current 7-12th graders! Sign up now to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children, Global Health Ministries, and enjoy time together at Valleyfair by contacting Kyla Fetsch at youth.oursaviorsvc@outlook.com. Cost of the trip is \$100, however, fundraising opportunities are available! Don't miss out on this memorable experience!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
WELCA
Spring Treasure Sale
Friday, May 1, 1pm - 4pm
Saturday, May 2, 8:30am - noon

Come check out the treasures - kitchen, household, toys, holiday decorations, storage, furniture, luggage and much more

Rolls, coffee and juice in the small dining room on Saturday. Free will offering will go to WELCA projects and activities.

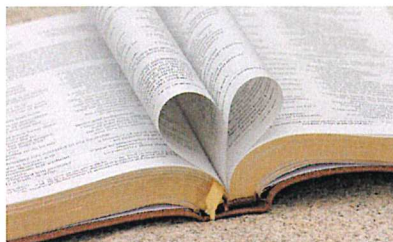


Good Samaritan Quilters will also have quilts for sale. Several different sizes available and in many different colors. They make great gifts for graduation, baby showers and more!



Wednesday Bible Study

Gathering Room
9:30am



Saturday Bible Study

Gathering Room
7:30am

Faith Lutheran Men's Group Fundraiser

Pancake Brunch



Faith Lutheran Church
309 4th St NE
Sunday, May 17, 2026
9:30am-12:30pm

Menu: Pancakes, Fried Potatoes, Sausage, Apple Sauce, Juice & Coffee


Cost: Free Will Donation

To Go Containers Available


Free!

CATCH THE "FEVER"

You're In
PEGGY LEE
Country




Peggy Lee Day in Valley City
(Save the Date)
Friday, June 19th
Kick off to Community days in Valley City



Program at 7:00 p.m. at Larry J. Robinson VCSU Fine Arts Center. Featuring Myron Sommerfeld Band with vocalist Miss Bonnie Lynn, along with special guests Joe Demasi and Maddie Klabo. Free Floral Raffle, Free Coffee and Ice Cream

"Please bring Food Items for the Barnes County Food Pantry"

Call: 701-845-1777




You'll go bananas for all this fun!



Vacation Bible School registration is now open!



Watch for an email and on social media for details. Volunteers are also needed - contact Kyla Fetsch with questions or to help.

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**Summer Worship
9:30**

The summer worship time of 9:30 on Sundays begins on Sunday, May 31st (Memorial Day weekend) coffee and fellowship before the service at 8:45



Red Willow Camp Clean Up days are May 2nd and May 9th, 9am to 4pm with lunch provided at noon. If you would like to help with clean-up projects at the camp, please contact the office or Pr. Jared. Red Willow is hiring summer staff. High School Youth can apply to be a Staff in Training. Applications can be found at: redwillowministries.com

**Good Samaritan
Quilters
are looking for used
sheets and fabric.**

The quilters are asking, as you clean closets and downsize, to keep them in mind. They are looking for used sheets (no white, please) and fabric (cotton preferred). If you have any questions, please contact Ann in the office or Carol Foth.



Connect With Us



@OurSaviorsValleyCity

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



Treasurer's Report:

The following account balances as of March 31st were noted.

GENERAL FUND.....	\$67,239.52
BUILDING FUND.....	10,818.20
MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIPS.....	1,051.81
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.....	5,468.21
FARM FUND (Checking).....	\$218,655.89

Staff Reports:

a. Kyla Fetsch- Tara read report from Kyla that she had sent via email due to absence. Palm Sunday went very well. Excellent number of kiddos showed up to sing in worship as well as at the variety show and had an amazing time at the Easter egg hunt. Our older youth did a great job serving the Palm Sunday breakfast. Thank you to all who attended in support of our summer mission trip!

SS, confirmation during lent, and senior high youth group are all seeing great numbers. Thank you to everyone who participated in the prayer stations that our confirmation students created. I thought they did a fantastic job.

Senior high lunch still sees anywhere from 30-70 students each Friday and I continue to have wonderful help with serving and cleanup and desserts.

Plans for senior recognition Sunday, VBS, and the summer youth trip are coming along very nicely. Youth trip has about 10 signed up currently and registration for VBS will come out at the end of April. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Committee Updates/Council Action

- a. Paul (Property) - The state boiler inspector has visited and approved the boiler. However, issues have arisen with Boiler 2. Additionally, the elevator maintenance technician reported that the stop button is malfunctioning and that the emergency lighting battery was not connected, highlighting several concerns that need to be addressed. As additional funding becomes available, we will proceed with further preventative maintenance. Bobbie has submitted wrap-up work orders. There was also discussion about keeping the other parsonage.
- b. Nate (Technology) - The committee is looking for youth volunteers to assist with streaming services and to improve scheduling. Haley suggested streaming the service to the youth room, and Nate confirmed that this is on their wish list!
- c. Katie (Worship & Music) - The committee is currently reviewing feedback from the "Changes to Service" survey. A meeting will be scheduled with Pastor Jared and Tara to discuss potential service changes. There was also discussion regarding the various interpretations of the Lord's Prayer.
- d. Janna (Service & Sharing) - The Crop Walk is set for May 6th, and the committee will have a water table/activity. They are seeking two additional committee members, with Audrey Poukka being a potential candidate.

Old Business

- a. Parsonage Update- The closing is scheduled for April 21st at 10:30 AM
- b. Lent- The Easter Brunch and services were successful, especially with the Pastor Rotations. It's important to note that the services ran longer to maintain the one-hour timeframe.
- d. Hiring for Choir Director and Office Coordinator Update- Advertisements are currently out, and a hiring committee is needed. Ross Powell has volunteered to join the hiring committee.

New Business

- a. Proceeds from Parsonage Sale (How to utilize the funds?)- The proceeds from the parsonage sale will be used to cover camp costs initially, as the Foundation will not meet until later. A new process requires the camp code to be provided only after the application has been submitted. Katie Sather motioned to allocate the parsonage sale proceeds to cover Red Willow camp fees, which was seconded by Nate Johnson. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved.

A Note from the Council President

Spring always brings a sense of momentum, new beginnings, growing hope, and gratitude for all that God is doing among us. On Senior Recognition Sunday we gave thanks for our graduates and the ways they have grown in faith, service, and leadership. No matter what their plans are we celebrate each one and trust God to walk with them into what comes next. Thank you to the Congregational Life Committee and Kyla for working together to make it special.

As we turn toward summer, there is much to look forward to. Vacation Bible School runs May 26-28, summer camp plans are underway, and youth will be heading out on a mission trip later in the season. Mark your calendar for the Crop Walk on May 6, we are looking to get at least 200 people out to the Jefferson Mile for this event.

This summer we are looking for opportunities to gather, serve, and rejoice together. Look for information to come soon about a church picnic and possibly an outdoor music worship service. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

As summer unfolds may this season be one of gratitude and celebration!

Tara Anderson



Host couples, or you and a friend, are needed to serve coffee and treats during fellowship time following worship during regular season and before worship time during the summer months. It can be as simple as making sure the coffee is on and running and providing a light treat. It is a great way to meet fellow members of the congregation. Sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.



The next Community Closet will be held Monday, August 17th. Please watch the newsletter and bulletins for more details as the date gets closer.

Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

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.



Notes From Worship and Music Committee

To make worship services more engaging, the Worship & Music Committee and members of the congregation have proposed several changes focused on music variety, youth involvement, and interactive elements.

Music and Worship Leadership

- **Contemporary Music and Variety:** The committee plans to introduce contemporary songs and maintain a variety of music to enhance participation. Many congregants specifically suggested mixing modern songs with traditional hymns or having a dedicated contemporary service.
- **Worship and Song Leaders:** Reinstating worship leaders is proposed to help the congregation—both in-person and online—participate more fully. Survey respondents also suggested using song leaders to guide people through newer or less familiar music.
- **Communion Music Flexibility:** A flexible approach is being adopted for communion, where any volunteer—including children—is encouraged to play instruments. This aims to ease hesitation and broaden involvement. Some congregants also suggested that communion should be a time for quiet, reflective music rather than congregational singing.
- **Choir and Special Music:** The choir will perform two to three times monthly, and the church will use tools like SignUpGenius to recruit volunteers for special music roles.

Youth and Child Participation

- **Active Roles for Children:** Proposals include moving Sunday school worship sessions earlier so children can lead songs during the main service.
- **Engaging Youth:** There is a push to involve younger generations more directly, such as having young people read the scripture, serve Holy Communion, and perform special music during the service.
- **Improved Experiences:** Enhancing the first-communion experience, making children's sermons feel less structured and more engaging, and the noisy offering were noted as ways to foster a better sense of community.

Sermon and Format Adjustments

- **Relatable Content:** Congregants have expressed a strong desire for more relatable sermons that connect scripture to everyday life and current world issues.
- **Exploring the Bible:** There are suggestions to occasionally move away from the lectionary to dive deeper into specific books of the Bible, such as the minor prophets or the book of Revelation.
- **Interactive Services:** To reduce the feeling of being "preached at," proposals include making services more interactive and energetic, with more conversation and interaction between worship leaders and the congregation.

Welcoming and Community Building

- **Greeters and Connection:** Reintroducing greeters and using name tags (at least once a month) are proposed to help members get to know one another and feel more welcome.
- **Alternative Service Times:** While the committee is considering a consistent 10:00 AM start time, there are also proposals to explore Wednesday evening or Saturday evening services to accommodate busy family schedules.
- **Community Events:** Planning social activities, such as a community picnic or informal small group gatherings (e.g., board game afternoons or book clubs), is proposed to strengthen congregational bonds outside of formal worship.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church | May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:00 Worship (SS to sing)</p> <p>9:00 Facebook Live</p> <p>10:15 Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>10:15 Last Day Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Radio Broadcast</p>		<p>9:00 Quilters</p> <p>9:00 Ministerial Mtg</p> <p>12:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Committees</p> <p>7:00 CROP WALK</p> <p>7:00 Sr High Group</p> <p>8:00 Council</p>	<p>12:00 Sr High Lunch</p> <p>Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>TREASURE SALE 1-4</p> <p>12:00 Sr High Lunch</p>	<p>7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>TREASURE SALE 8:30-NOON</p>
<p>9:00 Worship</p> <p>9:00 Facebook Live</p> <p>10:15 Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 Radio Broadcast</p>	<p>9:00 Quilters</p> <p>12:00 Jamestown Conference</p> <p>12:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>12:00 Sr High Lunch</p> <p>Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>12:00 Sr High Lunch</p> <p>Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>9:00 Worship</p> <p>9:00 Facebook Live</p> <p>10:15 Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 Radio Broadcast</p>	<p>6:30 PEO</p>	<p>9:00 Quilters</p> <p>12:30 Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 Text Study</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>VCHS Baccalaureate 7:00 PM</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p>		<p>7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>8:45 Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>9:30 Worship</p> <p>9:30 Facebook Live</p> <p>11:00 Radio Broadcast</p>	<p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>VBS 12:30-5:00</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>4:30 VBS Program</p>	<p>Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>THANKS to Our VBS Volunteers!</p>



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

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May 2026



Song of Solomon
2:12, NRSV

The
flowers
appear
on the
earth;
the
time of
singing
has come.

**9:30am
Worship
begins
Sunday,
May 31st
(Memorial Day)
Weekend**