

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

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Valley City, ND

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July 2025



Summer Worship Services

9:30 am

Coffee and Fellowship

at 8:45 am

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

A graphic featuring the text "GOD BLESS AMERICA" in a bold, serif font. The words "GOD BLESS" are in blue, and "AMERICA" is in red. The text is flanked by stylized American flags: the left flag has a blue field with white stars and red stripes, while the right flag has only red stripes.

Over my time as a pastor and a person, I am reminded of the importance of silence.

Silence is a spiritual discipline, that is, a consistent practice which helps us follow Jesus. Silence is like having the correct hiking shoes for a hike. Silence helps us pray to God about, and for, God's direction for our lives, to be mindful of the needs of others and the world, and to hear our heartbeats (which, have you noticed, can really only be heard in silence?). From his book, *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*, Robert Cardinal Sarah writes: "Silence is difficult, but it enables (one) to let (oneself) to be led by God" (p. 54).

I must confess I have work to do when it comes to a discipline of silence. As someone who likes a podcast, radio, TV, etc. "on," practicing silence is not automatic. It can feel unproductive. The more I practice silence, the more I like it. What's more, with consistent times of silence in my days and weeks, the more serene my life happens to be.

Indeed, silence provides time to pray for people, the world, and their circumstances. Life tends to be more centered with consistent times of silence.

Some people use their time of silence to write about life or write their prayers. Some people new to a discipline of silence also set a timer and work their way into longer periods of silence. However, and whenever silence works for each of us, silence can increase our connection with God – so often beneficial.

Jesus took time away for solitude and silence in the midst of his life and ministry. So too can his followers, his disciples – including all of us.

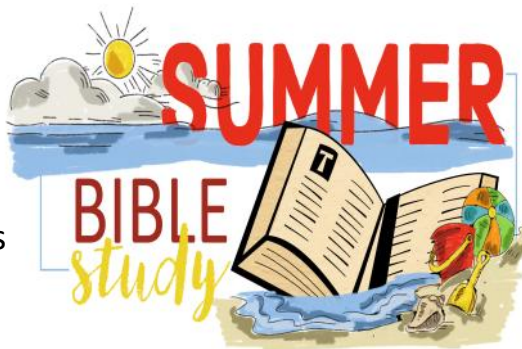
Peace – Pr. Rich



Be Still
and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10



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 com-
 munity!



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 relation-
 ships. All are welcome.

St Raphael is Looking for Volunteers

If you have a talent to share, love to have coffee and visit, play cards and games, do puzzles, take walks outside, or enjoy taking trips fishing or on outings with others, we'd love to have you! If you play an instrument, set ladies' hair, can transport residents to activities, share scripture and pray with others, do a planting project, or are good at woodworking, you'd be a great fit with us! If you enjoy helping with tasks like filling water pitchers, writing letters for residents, ride with others to an appointment, or just sit and hold someone's hand...please call me today to fill out a Volunteer Application for St Raphael. We also have applications on our website.

Thank you so much!



Angela M Hansen, MT-BC/L
 Activities Coordinator
 SMP Health—St Raphael
 Valley City, ND
 701-845-8238



The July, August, September is-
 sue of "Christ in Our Home" is
 now available. It is available in
 both regular and large print.
 Feel free to take an extra copy
 for a friend!



Handbell Concert Sunday, July 20th, 5 pm OSLC Sanctuary

Presented by Nikki Evans and Ingrid Daniel
Free

Free-will offering available to help Nikki offset expenses



Additional Thoughts from the Assembly:

The Sargent County churches needed a rostered pastor, but none were available, and it became evident none would become available. Some members of these churches worked together to become synod-authorized ministers, SAMs. On June 15th, 12 lay people in Sargent County churches were authorized as SAMs.

As I see many rural churches without a rostered pastor, this ministry is becoming very viable in the Eastern ND Synod and other synods with shrinking populations in rural areas. In a way, this is like the past when there were circuit rider pastors.

When I think of lay people helping, I think of material needs, such as food, transportation or shelter. It was heart warming to see neighbors working together to share the good news of God working in their communities and a God of possibilities.



Some things from our voting members at the synod assembly in early June:

-During offering, passing the plate and it being a time where people would leave a note about wanting to help with or volunteer for something in church.

-Wonderful and inspiring presentations from Rev Tim Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship and Eastern ND Synod Bishop, Rev Tess Moon Leiseth.

-Informative and helpful breakout (small group) sessions led by pastors and lay leaders in the synod on ways they are serving and growing their ministries in a changing culture and the church's response.

-Good connections with colleagues and friends from across the synod and people we've met at previous assemblies.



“Generosity is a taught habit” says Rev Tim Brown, the keynote speaker at this year’s EaND Synod Assembly. We are called by God to be good stewards of earth and neighbor. One of the ways we do this is certainly through financial giving to various institutions. However, our generosity and stewardship goes into every interaction we have with one another and with this world God has made. Stewardship is an ongoing conversation between God and us.

As part of Synod Assembly this year, I led a workshop in which we discussed the church’s impact on people who live with disabilities. I led this alongside Chris Larson and Hannah Papenfuss. My hope is that this workshop becomes a launching point for further ongoing conversation among congregations and organizations both within and outside of our synod. If you would like to know more about the workshop, ask me about it.

Pastor Nicholas Rohde





We are beginning a Sack Lunch program for the summer. On Fridays, from May 30 to August 15. Sack lunches will be available to anyone who is in

need of a meal, at no cost to them. This is an extension of the Senior High Lunch program, which will return next school year. Sack lunches will be served in the downstairs dining area starting at 11am until supplies are gone for the day. We are looking for volunteers to help prep and serve on Friday mornings, as well as donations.

Helpful donations: Tubs of peanut butter, individual bags of chips, bottled water, sandwich size ziplock bags and fruit cups.



At its May meeting, the Congregational Council decided that 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.

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 TikTok, @oursaviorsvcnd.



Notes From Your Treasurer

I recently attended our ELCA Synod Assembly in Fargo. The theme this year was "Grace Upon Grace" and our keynote speaker was Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship. Many of us hear the word "stewardship" and our minds jump ahead to our billfolds and money. Think of yourself as a steward: a steward of your body, a steward of your land and possessions, a steward of your family. To that we can add stewards of nature, relationships—everything that we are connected to in our lives. Let us be good stewards!

We also had workshops available to us on Saturday and Sunday. I attended the workshops on Narrative Budgets and Best Practices for Congregation Leaders. Some of the stories I heard made me very thankful for the audits performed each year on the financial books for Our Savior's.

Thank you for all the ways you steward at Our Savior's – attending services, sharing food, greeting visitors, taking care of the buildings and the list goes on. Your financial support makes it easy for me to pay the bills each month. Thank you for that.

Now, on the home front, the Orange Streak has been renamed George. He was still long enough for me to get a good picture of him outside, but he is very skittish when he hears movement. He sees no reason to wait around for any good conversation. Jigger, MacArthur, and Snoopy quietly tolerate his nightly visits as he "meows" his thanks for their leftovers.

Have a safe and God-filled summer!
Janet Brown



BUDGET REPORT

January	\$17,321
February	\$33,789
March	\$34,120
April	\$35,566
May	\$34,440

Total to Date: \$ 163,959
(Budgeted to date \$153,021)

Amount needed each month
to meet budget: \$30,604
Difference: \$10,938

Hospital Visitation

If you or a loved one is hospital-ized or is in a care center and you would like a pastor to visit, please call the office to let us know with the person's name, location (& room number), and phone number (if possible). We are glad to visit you and provide spiritual care! Hospitals and care centers do not automatically notify churches of a church member's admission.



The Church Council met on June 11, 2025. Pastor Nicholas led the Council in a discussion of Stewardship, based on materials presented at the Synod Assembly June 6-8. goals and activity over the past month.

The **Property Committee** reported on the current cleaning contract with ServiceMaster. Work has been done to assess the usability of the old dishwasher in the kitchen; it is about 45-50 years old, and it has now been cleaned and repaired. They received a quote for a replacement of \$25,000. No action at this point was recommended or taken.

The **Technology Committee** reports that the new streaming computer is up and works great and came in under budget.

The **Children and Youth Committee** indicated that about 60 children attended VBS June 3-5. Serving for "Free Lunch Fridays" is ongoing, with about 25 individuals attending each of the first couple of Fridays.

The Council discussed **funding for the radio broadcast**. Janet and Margaret reported on their review of the account, noting that we ended 2024 with a deficit of \$1600. At mid year, we have a \$900 deficit, with a total of 20 services not yet sponsored/paid for the year.

The **Kathryn-Nome-Fingal Contract** for July-Dec 2025 was reviewed and approved; the new agreement includes payment for mileage.

The Council approved updated language in the Building Use Policy to clarify the difference between using the church for a meeting vs. a reception.

Pastor Nicholas indicated that a youth group from Sommerset, WI, has requested overnight accommodations on July 18th as they travel home from Montana; Council approved use of the empty parsonage for this purpose.

Council Members: Katie Sather, Amelia Belgard, Lacie Maresh, Kyla Fetsch, Nathan Johnson, LouVay White, Sara Wangrud, Tara Anderson, Margaret Dahlberg, Janet Brown, Pr. Rich and Pr. Nicholas.

Submitted by Margaret Dahlberg, Council President

Did You Know???

The first mention of a Radio Broadcast at OSLC is in the 1933 Pastor's annual report, where he indicates that the church is supporting both a radio broadcast of OSLC services and also the broadcast of the services in Norwegian from a church in Kathryn.