

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

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Valley City, ND

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2025



**Beginning Sunday, 5/25/25,
Summer Worship Services will
be held at 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

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.</i> <small>Romans 15:13</small></p>				1	2 WELCA Treasure Sale 1-4 pm	3 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship WELCA Treasure Sale 8:30 am—noon
4 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Sunday School 10:10 am Book Study 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	5	6 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	7 9:30am Bible Study 	8	9	10 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
11 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:10 am Book Study 11:00am Radio Broadcast	12	13 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	14 9:30am Bible Study 7:00 pm Committees 8:00 pm Council	15	16	17 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
18 9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:10 am Book Study 11:00am Radio Broadcast	19 6:30 pm PEO	20 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	21 9:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm Sr High	22	23	24 7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
25 8:45 am Coffee and Fellowship 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Facebook Live 10:40 am Book Study 11:00 am Radio Broadcast	26	27 9:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Text Study	28 9:30 am Bible Study	29	30	31



Hello from church! Admittedly, I have too many books. Such can be the life of a pastor. One that has been with me a long time is *Confessions*, by Augustine of Hippo. It is an autobiography of sorts written by one of Christianity's influential thinkers. Augustine lived in northern Africa from 354-430, a few hundred years after Jesus.

Augustine's *Confessions* is a combination of his personal experience, trying to apply God and the Bible to his life, and how to make (some) sense of himself (his story and life), God, and the world. It's considered one of the first autobiographies of Western thought; theologians and philosophers over the centuries have spilled gallons of ink (whether pen- or copier-based), about the book and what it means for Christians who both love God and know that sometimes we aren't, and want to be, our best selves. I recommend it. Experience it slowly.

My copy has a wonderful introduction. Part of it caught my eye: "Throughout this ancient story, our author (Augustine) comes to realize that it is not until he can tell his story from God's perspective that he actually has a story to tell." Hmmm.... "Tell his (own) story from God's perspective."

That got me to ponder... How would God tell my story? How would God tell your story? How would God tell our story as a congregation? Where would God start? Would God include everything, skip over the boring bits, polish to a shine the wonderful days, and clean the icky times?

It seems how we answer that question will inform us about what we believe about God and who God is for us and for the world. Soon we will have warmer temperatures, campfires, and story-times; how about trying out your God-written story?

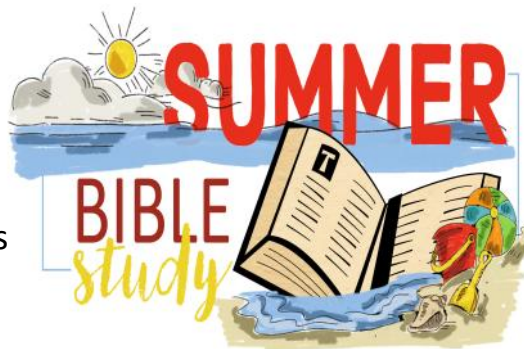
The sacred writings we call the Bible began as spoken stories shared between people, then shared from one generation to the next. The life of God's people is very much at home in the form of stories. As we think about our lives, let us consider them from God's perspective – as that is, ultimately, the one perspective that really truly, matters most.

Give it a start..."God, I don't know how you'd tell my story, but here's what I'd love you to include..." Doing that can get us connected to God in a very real way. What would you type or write?



Peace – Pr. Rich

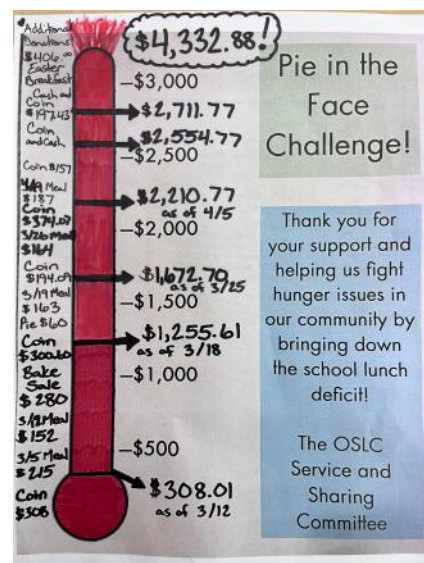
Wednesday Bible Study |
9:30 a.m. in the Gathering
Room – We gather for
 study, reflection, questions,
 and laughter each week in
 the Gathering Room. Join us
 for conversation and com-
 munity!



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.



The Service and Sharing Committee would like to thank the Our Savior's congregation for their support throughout this Lenten season! The goal was to raise \$3,000 to offset costs of food insecurity in Valley City, and a total of **\$4,332.88** was raised! This could not have been done without your contributions to noisy offering, the bake sale, and Lent meals. The proceeds will be donated to alleviate the school lunch debt at Valley City Public Schools. Thank you, congregation, for helping make a difference in our community!



Connect with us:

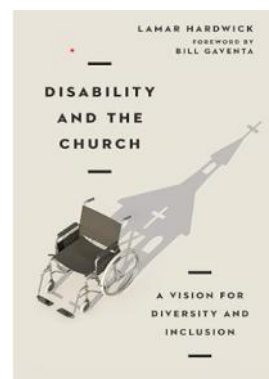


@OurSaviorsValleyCity



@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.



This book study on Disability and the Church by Lamar Hardwick continues through May as we discuss a chapter or two a week regarding different ways that Church can be more

inclusive to those with varying abilities. This book can be purchased through Amazon for around \$16. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to buy the book themselves. However, if the cost is a hinderance, please contact the office for assistance. We wish for this book study to be accessible for all who wish to participate. Each week is an independent discussion, so you can join in anytime.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church WELCA Spring Treasure Sale

Friday, May 2, 1-4

Saturday, May 3, 8:30 – noon

Come check out the treasures – kitchen, household, toys, holiday decorations, storage, 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—great gifts for graduation, baby showers and more.





The Church Council is interested in your feedback: OSLC has a long history of supporting radio broadcasts of our Sunday services. However, with the move to more online options, and with concerns over the quality of the radio broadcast,

the Council is considering whether to continue the radio broadcasts. **What do you think? Please let one of our Council members know before the May 14 meeting!**

NOTE: We will continue to offer our Facebook livestream on Sunday mornings, regardless. If we make this change, donations may still be made to support our worship service ministry outreach; these donations made in honor or in memory of someone will continue to be acknowledged in the bulletin and the funds used to support our streaming service.



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!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 15 minutes or so before the service. 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!

Are you available to **sub for Communion and Counting** on Sundays? Please contact the office if you would like to be on this list.

CROP Walk for World Hunger May 7

The 45th annual Valley City CROP Walk for Hunger is set for Wednesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. on the Jefferson school mile. Walkers may start collecting pledges and making donations now. See crophungerwalk.org or stop by the church office for pledge and donor forms.

Seventy five percent of the money raised goes to fight hunger around the world and the remaining 25 percent remains in the local community in a distribution to the Barnes County Food Pantry, the Hi-Liner Food Pantry at Valley City Public Junior/Senior High, and the Valley City State University Food Pantry. In 2024, more than \$5244.06 was raised for this hunger relief.

The CROP Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. Now there are more than 500 communities across the United States that participate.

Valley City's participation in this event started in 1981 with the help of the late Rev. Wayne McKirdy (who was a United Methodist pastor), Kay Kringle, Myrt Pommeroy, and Wes Retterath (from St. Catherine's Catholic Church).



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.

APOC



**Taco Bar
Fundraiser
Supper**



**Monday
5.5.2025
Valley City Eagles
5-7pm**

\$ free will offering

Donations will be used for client services at
Abused Persons Outreach Center

Sponsored by VC Eagles #2192 Gaming



Notes from your Treasurer\$\$

I hope you enjoyed April as much as I did. It was warm enough to clean the garage again. All the boxes and miscellaneous items that I didn't want to properly put away or deal with when the garage was cold finally got my attention. Then there was all that stuff that I kept moving around and really didn't know why it was still there in the first place. I've lived in the same home for 45 years and I'm thinking some of those treasures moved in with me. While the landfill got its share of my useless goods, the WELCA Treasure Sale was my real target.

All that work got me to thinking about why it took me so long to get moving on the cleaning out project. It reminded me of one of my early April devotions titled "You Can't Drive a Parked Car". It won't get done unless I get started. It became interesting: Do I throw it, keep it, or give it away? The same is true when I'm wondering what God wants me to do. I just have to remember that He can't give me directions if I'm not doing anything. I just need to get started. Then He can direct my actions. If something doesn't feel right in my heart, then I need to change directions, until my soul is good with it.

Now let's talk church finances. We are working with a tightened budget and the Council is looking for creative ways to keep our expenses in check. We will be reviewing the budget in July to see if we need to make some changes in our expectations. We appreciate all the gifts you have given OSLC financially. We also appreciate all the other gifts you shower on OSLC with your time, your willingness to serve on committees, sharing food etc.

It's late as I'm finishing this news letter item tonight and I can honestly say that I still have two and one half cats. My two felines are stationed on their perches, and I can hear the Orange Streak announcing that he'd like to partake of their left-over supper. Once he hears human movement, he's gone again until the house quiets down for the night. I've been trying to get a picture of him, but so far, it's only his orange tail that's visible as he's leaving the house. Maybe next month??

Janet Brown



BUDGET REPORT

January	\$17,321
February	\$33,789
March	\$34,120

Total to Date: \$85,221
(Budgeted to date \$91,941)

Amount needed each month
to meet budget: \$30,647
Difference: (\$6,720)



**Our Savior's is looking for a
custodian. Part-time, flexible
hours. Please contact Paul
Dahlberg (490-1890)**

2025 OSLC High School Graduates



Jake Anderson
Parents: Darin and Julia Anderson



Miles Taylor
Parents: Dan Taylor and Jill Taylor



Leah Hochhalter
Parents: David and Diane Hochhalter



Bryson Heck
Parents: Jill and Jordyn Heck



Alana Monica Lebahn
Parents: Neil and Tricia Lebahn



Ava Huseby
Parents: Nikki Nielsen and Tyler Kosse



Jakob Stainbrook
Parents: Jon and Jennifer Stainbrook



Trevor James Fetsch
Parents: Matt and Kyla Fetsch



Bailey Ryann Leroux
Parents: Ryan and Missy Leroux



Rachael Belgard
Parents: Jason and Amelia Beloard



Madison Wendel
Parents: Breanne Wenaas & Chad Wendel

Not pictured:

Kyle Strang

Parents: Jon Strang and Susan Strang

Joel Strang

Parents: Jon Strang and Susan Strang

Favorite OSLC Senior Memories

Jake Anderson : Playing ping pong before confirmation.

Miles Taylor: Enjoyed it when they broke off into small groups for confirmation.

Leah Hochhalter: Some of my favorite memories from Our Savors have been working with the Vacation Bible School program. Whenever it was hosted at OSLC, I volunteered to help. I loved growing up going to Vacation Bible School in the summer, and I wanted to make sure the younger kids experienced the same joy I felt every time I went when I was younger. I also can't leave out my favorite memories of Christmastime at Our Savors. I loved getting to participate in the Christmas programs when I was younger, and I remember the excitement I felt when I learned I got a speaking line. I remember singing "Go Tell It On the Mountain" with a group of friends just because we wanted to, not because we were asked to. I look forward to the Christmas Eve service every holiday season, and I love the feeling I get when I'm singing "Silent Night" surrounded by my family and love from the church.

Bryson Heck: Playing ping pong before youth group

Alana Monica Lebahn: Spending time with family and extended family at church.

Ava Husby: Small group with Sandi

Jakob Stainbrook: I had a blast on the sledding, and my friends all had a blast and have come a couple of times as well. From racing each other to doing the train I would go back again.

Madison Wendel: Small groups with Sandi

Trevor James Fetsch: 7th grade year of confirmation

Bailey Ryann Leroux: Bonfires in the parking lot on Wednesdays

Rachel Belgard: When we went on the mission trip to Duluth. It really opened my eyes to see how different people live.



The Church Council met on April 9, 2025. Treasurer Janet Brown report on our status at the end of the first quarter, noting that giving is up a little compared to last year. Thank you to all who are stepping up to help us keep our budget on track!

Each of the committees reported on their 2025 goals and activity over the past month.

The **Property Committee** noted the completion of the Kitchen; the Youth room is next on the list!

The **Technology Committee** is discussing options for upgrading the streaming computer.

The **Service and Sharing Committee** is hard at work on this year's goal – to raise \$3000 during Lent to offset some of the public school's hot lunch program debt.

The **Congregational Life Committee** is working on Graduation Recognition activities, to include a newsletter insert and church service blessing for each graduate.

The **Children and Youth Committee** has updated the children's activity bags for use during church; they are starting to plan Vacation Bible School; 6 children took their first communion in April.

The **Worship and Music Committee** is preparing for Easter, planning the Easter garden. They will be sending out a survey regarding congregation preferences for updating the worship experience at Our Savior's.

The **Call Committee** met with Pr. Skogen from the Eastern ND Synod immediately prior to the council meeting for training. The MSP will be "live" starting April 10. If you know of someone who might be interested in ministry at OSLC, please urge them to review our MSP online and contact Pr. Skogen at the synod office to express their interest.

Council approved the purchase of a new computer or computer elements up to \$1000; the Technology Committee will research and purchase what is needed to assure continued worship service streaming.

The Council discussed the future viability of the Radio Broadcast; at this point, we have heard from three members regarding the radio broadcast. Council members were asked to continue to take input from the congregation to share at the May meeting, to listen to the broadcast so they can report personally on their listening experience. If you have any further comments or concerns, **please be sure to talk with one of the Council members before the May 14 meeting.**

The Council approved the appointment of Leslie Rohde as our 4th representative for Synod Assembly in June 2025; Council also approved a change in worship time for the Summer: Fellowship hour at 8:45, followed by Worship at 9:30, beginning Memorial Day weekend.

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

Burial: Harold Pross (non-member)

Submitted by Margaret Dahlberg, Council President

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



OSLC YOUTH

Pre-K - 6th

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School meets each week from 10:00-10:45 am, September through early May and is open to students Pre-K through 6th grade. Contact Superintendent, Katie Sather, with any questions at oslcsundyschool@outlook.com

May Notes:

May 4th — Last Day of Sunday School



BIBLE CAMP REGISTRATION: Registration for all ages is now open for summer camp at Red Willow. Registration at Red Willow is FREE to all OSLC members because of the support of the OSLC Foundation. Be in touch with Pr. Nicholas, Pr Rich, or the church office to get your registration code to receive free camp tuition before you register. For more information or to register, visit redwillowministries.com

Vacation Bible School will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Look for information to come out soon.



7th - 12th

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.

Outgoing 9th graders, be sure to sign up for the Senior High Youth Group!