



OUR SAVIOR'S NEWS

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

Sunday School

Resumes Sunday,
September 13th with a
Rally Sunday Kick Off
Event at 9am!

CONTACT US

(701) 845-1328
oursaviorsvc@outlook.com
www.oursaviorsvc.org

138 3rd Street NW
Valley City, ND 58072

BUILDING HOURS

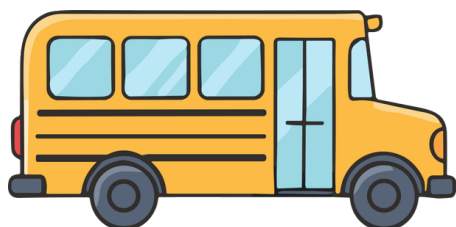
Mon, Thur, Fri: 9 - noon
Tues, Weds: 9 - 4:30
Sunday: 8 - noon

*New
Fall Hours!*

Sunday School 9am
Fellowship 9am
Worship 10am
Starting Sunday
September 13th

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Students of all ages,
teachers/professors, teachers
aids, school staff and
administrators. Everyone who is
beginning a new school year is
invited to the **Blessings of the
Backpacks, on Sunday, August
30**. Bring your backpack,
briefcase, or work bag to
worship. We will have a special
blessing for all those starting
another academic year.



Summer Fun Days

Sunday, August 30

Potluck Brunch and Bunco
10:30 - Noon



Join us for Summer Worship
each Sunday at 9:30am!

New Staff - Brooke Gubrud, Office Coordinator/Financial Secretary

We are pleased to announce that Brooke Gubrud
has accepted the position of Office Coordinator/
Financial Secretary at Our Savior's Lutheran
Church. This is a half-time role. Brooke will start
August 20, 2026.

Responsibilities include:

provides support to the pastors,
congregation, and volunteers; the first
point of contact for visitors; general office
work, financial reporting, record keeping,
building support, and effective
communication



A LEAP OF FAITH

Perhaps you have heard the story about the unicyclist who was preparing to ride the tight rope over Niagara Falls? There had been a lot of publicity about the cyclist's stunt and a large crowd came from miles around to watch the once in a lifetime event. Some came as skeptics sure that the unicyclist would turn back before even starting; others came with great anticipation looking forward to the celebration that would follow. The story goes that as the unicyclist was being interviewed by a newspaper reporter, the unicyclist turned to the crowd and asked with great enthusiasm, "Do you think I can do it?" To which the cheering crowd said, "yes, we think you can!" Again the cyclist asked, "Do you, really, think I can do it?" The crowd, now more wildly stirred up by the unicyclist's question, said with more energy, "Yes, we know you can do it!" Then the unicyclist turned to a young boy nearby and asked with a great big smile, "do you think I can do it?" And the young boy replied, "I know you can do it!" At that the unicyclist bent down, spun round, and looking over his shoulder said to the boy, "Well, climb on!" Now, whether this story is true or not...I'm not totally sure. But it does give us an insight into the connection between faith and obedience.

What does faith look like? I like to think of faith as a daring confidence and living hope. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans says, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with patience." (Rom. 8:24-25) Faith can look like a daring, confident, living, patient hope. But the faith of Jesus the Messiah, doesn't allow us to remain passive enthusiasts. Christ who burst the bonds of sin, death, and all evil turns to us and says, "Well, climb on!" "Take my yoke upon you, learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:29-30). Faith lived out stirs us to obedience, toward participation in the reconciling work of God in the world.

We are not passive spectators for the work of Christ in the world. You, Our Savior's Lutheran Church family of believers, are making a leap of faith as you prepare to call your next pastor. You are welcoming new members and new staff people, like Brooke Gubrud. The congregation and council have been taking bold steps by selling the Chautauqua parsonage, finishing capital campaign projects, preparing the Valley View parsonage for the next settled pastor, re-evaluating ministry programming. Taking this leap of faith doesn't come without a cost, the need to let go of assumptions and expectations about possibilities for ministry. This leap of faith and obedience are all possible because of our trust that the Holy Spirit is leading. The call for us to step into God's future is never a one-time event. It is a daily invitation to obedience, in essence to "climb on!"; trusting that the God of all creation is in control.

God, give us courage to walk by faith and not by sight.

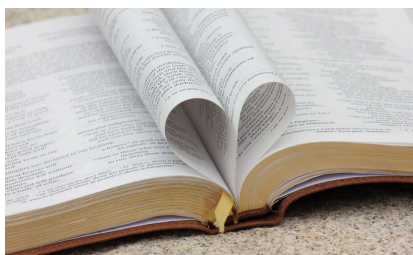
In Christ, 

Pastor Jared Carson

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

Wednesday Bible Study

Gathering Room
9:30am

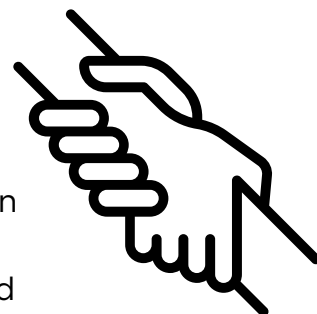


Saturday Bible Study

Gathering Room
7:30am

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY AID FUND

Every gift to Our Savior's Lutheran Church's General Fund helps make Christ's love tangible through the Pastor's Discretionary Aid Fund, which provides compassionate assistance to neighbors in times of need. This ministry has helped provide fuel assistance, paid utility bills, and even purchased a new bicycle for a young child, offering both practical support and renewed hope. One recipient shared, "The support that I received from Our Savior's made an impact on me and my family, thank you, thank you!" Together, your faithful generosity is changing lives and sharing God's grace in our congregation and throughout our community.



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>

Great Plains Food Distribution August 4 from 1:30-3pm

Epworth United Methodist Church in partnership with Great Plains Food bank and other community partners is hosting the next food distribution on Tuesday, August 4 from 1:30pm - 3pm. Serve others in Jesus' name by meeting the physical needs of hungry neighbors.



**GREAT PLAINS
FOOD BANK**

RED WILLOW BIBLE CAMP

100 Anniversary Celebration Event



RED WILLOW MINISTRIES
1926-2026 *Light the Fire, Celebrating 100 Years*

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!
SAT, AUGUST 8TH

1:00 PM Check-in & Ice Cream Social
3:00-5:00 PM Time to Explore Camp
5:00 PM Celebration Banquet
6:30 PM Celebration Program
8:00 PM Campfire
9:00 PM Walk to Cross Hill
REGISTRATION REQUIRED - \$50 PER PERSON

SUNDAY @ 10:00 AM | WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL WITH BISHOP TESSA MOON-LEISETH

Register by using the QR Code or heading to redwillowministries.com/100-year-celebration

Red Willow Quilt Auction

August 22, 10-3pm

Support the camp by attending the Annual Quilt Auction! Food, Bouncey Houses for Kids, Live and Silent Auction on beautiful Red Willow Lake.

AND

Buy Quilt Raffle tickets for \$10 each.



Lakota Star Pattern donated by family of the late Janice Thykeson

Red Willow Annual Meeting

November 15, 5-8pm

Each supporting congregation is encouraged to send voting members to the Red Willow Annual Meeting to hear about the camp's mission, direction, and priorities. Voting members also elect new Board Members. Dinner is provided!

SPLASH INTO FAITH - DAY OF CAMP

Our Savior's Lutheran is hosting the Staff of Red Willow Bible Camp for a Day of Summer Camp in Valley City! Students in Grades 7-12 and Adults will be needed as volunteers to help with registration, serving food, and as small group leaders. Please Contact Pr. Jared to Volunteer. Registration Link for children (K-6 Grade) is Open! Use the QR Code



SPLASH INTO FAITH
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 5 9:30AM - 2PM

A DAY OF SUMMER CAMP AT CHAUTAUQUA PARK WITH THE STAFF OF RED WILLOW BIBLE CAMP

FOR GRADES K-6
GRADE 7-12 MAY VOLUNTEER
Hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Our Savior's Youth!

Sunday School

Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 13th at 9am with a Rally Sunday Kick Off Event! Save the date and watch for more details as well as a full Sunday School calendar for the 2026-2027 school year in the September newsletter!

Families with preschool age kiddos - save the date! If your preschooler will start kindergarten in August 2027, they are able to attend Sunday School! Join us for a "Fun Day" on August 23rd right after worship where we will give them a taste of what a day of Sunday School is going to look like. There will be games, activities, and snacks! Hope to see you there!

Incoming 10th Grade Confirmation Students

I hope your final requirements and expectations are going well! Remember, you must have all of these completed before you are confirmed in October. At this point, your four mentor meetings should be complete. If they aren't, please complete them ASAP. Just a reminder that it is the student's responsibility to schedule the meetings with the mentor.

Be sure to mark your calendar with the following dates! Attendance is required!

Senior High Youth Group: September 16, October 7 and 21

Confirmation Rehearsal and Pictures: October 18

Confirmation Sunday: October 25

Incoming 7-9th Grade Confirmation Students

Confirmation will resume in September! The Student and Parent Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church.

Please make every effort to attend as you will be signing up for required activities!

A full Confirmation calendar for the 2026-2027 school year will be handed out at the meeting on the 9th. Classes are held Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm with an optional light meal at 6pm.

New to our Confirmation program? Stop by our No-Pressure, Confirmation Open House on Sunday, August 23rd between 7 and 8pm to learn more about our program.

Any new 7-9th graders and their parents are welcome!

Senior High Youth Group

Senior High Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 7:30-9:00pm and includes all youth in grades 10-12. Be sure to join us in the Spond app with the code SSSZZ so you don't miss out on all of the upcoming activities!

Senior High Lunch

Senior High Lunch is back and we have moved to Mondays! If you are a student who wants to know what is for lunch each week OR an adult volunteer who would like to help out with serving, cleanup, or desserts, join us in the Spond app with the code HQIKQ to stay connected!

OSLC Summer Youth Trip!

18 youth and chaperones volunteered at Feed My Starving Children and Global Health Ministries, brought non-perishable food items to The Neighborhood Church in Fargo, and enjoyed time together at Valleyfair. Check out the photos on the next page! We can't wait for next year!

Most Memorable Moments from Our Youth

I was hesitant to go on the youth trip at first, but thanks to my friends and Kyla, I decided to go. It was a great decision and I had a terrific experience serving others. I can't wait to go next year!

My favorite thing from this trip was Valleyfair but I also though Global Health Ministries was exciting too.

I really enjoyed going on this trip mainly because it made me realize how much I take for granted. The people that we helped through our volunteer work have little or no access to food and medical supplies. I especially take the fact that I get multiple meals a day for granted. I really enjoyed volunteering for people who aren't as lucky as I am.

My favorite part was The Neighborhood Church and that I realized that the little things make a difference!

My favorite part was helping with the food. Yes, Valleyfair was fun, but it was really calming at Feed My Starving Children. Also, knowing that the food is going to people who need it makes me happy.

I think the most interesting part was learning what the organizations do and the impact they have on those that they help. It's a sad reality that so many people around the world can't get food or basic medical supplies and I'm so glad I could spend even a little of my time to potentially save someone's life.

My favorite part of the trip is that we all got to help volunteer for Feed My Starving Children and all got to meet new people and work together. I also liked Valleyfair a lot.

My favorite part was Feed My Starving Children. I liked how we gave food to people who needed it.

My favorite part was probably being able to spend time with friends at Valleyfair.

My favorite part was helping at Feed My Starving Children with friends.

I loved getting to experience this youth trip for one of the last times! I've loved this trip for so many years because it brings everyone together and also shows us how we can spread God's love to others in need! My favorite part is always stopping at The Neighborhood Church in Fargo and seeing how much of an impact our donations and help make!

My favorite part of the youth trip was helping pack food with Feed My Starving Children. It was cool to be a part of a team where everyone was working together to provide food for those who are hungry. Seeing all of the food we packed made it feel like we really made a difference.

Valleyfair was a blast (as usual), but I love the feeling of helping others more than anything! It's such a great opportunity to actually be God's hands. It always amazes me how thankful everyone is for our help that seems so effortless. Kyla is such an awesome leader for this trip - she is so good at putting things into perspective for us and making us feel like we really made a change.

I liked Feed My Starving Children not only because I got to help people who needed it more than me but because I got to get closer with people I didn't know as well and meet new people!

Volunteering and learning at Feed My Starving Children was an amazing experience. The information that they gave to us was interesting, and getting to have fun with friends while also knowing that you were making a positive impact on someone's life was super cool.

Valleyfair!



The Neighborhood Church
with Pastor Jessica



Feed My Starving Children



Global Health Ministries



SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S LOVE



Thank you to everyone from Our Savior's who helped support the Summer Grocery Store through the Bridges Backpack Program through prayer, financial gifts, and your time. This ministry provides free groceries to anyone in our community during the summer months, helping fill the gap when school meals are unavailable.

Our congregation had the privilege of serving on two Wednesday evenings during the summer, with four volunteers from Our Savior's assisting each time. Whether welcoming guests, stocking shelves, or helping families shop, our volunteers shared Christ's love through simple acts of service and hospitality. In June we help distribute more than 1,000 lbs of food to 42 households and in July we helped distribute more than 900 lbs of food to 33 households.

In addition to volunteering, many members donated non-perishable food items throughout the summer. These generous gifts, along with support from local churches, organizations, and the Great Plains Food Bank, helped ensure that families in our community had access to nutritious food during the summer months. Together, we lived out Jesus' call to care for our neighbors and were reminded that God's abundance is multiplied through generous hearts and willing hands.

VCSU FALL ATHLETICS BANQUET

The Service and Sharing Committee is excited to host the annual VCSU Fall Athlete Meal on Sunday, August 16th to welcome the Viking football and volleyball teams to Valley City. This is an event these teams look forward to every year and we are fortunate to continue offering it! Bill Poukka will cater the meal with desserts provided by the congregation. **If you are willing and able to donate 1-2 dozen bars or cookies, please bring them to the**

downstairs kitchen by 4 PM on August 16.

Thank you for your support!



VCSU MARKETPLACE



Come join Pr. Jared at the **VCSU Marketplace on Tuesday, Aug 26, from 4:30-7:30 PM** as we welcome new and returning students to Valley City! This annual event gives students the

opportunity to connect with campus and community organizations, and it's a wonderful chance for us to share the hospitality of Our Savior's. Friendly volunteers need to help greet students, visit with them, and invite them to worship. We'd also appreciate donations of homemade bars and other individually wrapped treats to share at our table. Please contact Janna Kohler or Pr. Jared to help. We hope you'll join us as we extend Christ's welcome to our neighbors on campus!

PHOTOS FROM WORSHIP IN THE PARK ON JULY 12



PHOTOS FROM CHRISTMAS IN JULY



A Note from the Council President

As another wonderful summer begins to wind down, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many ways God has blessed our church family. It has been a season filled with faith, fellowship, laughter, and opportunities to share God's love with one another and our community. We enjoyed gathering together for our Potluck & Bingo event. Sharing a meal and fun reminds us of Christian fellowship. We joined our community for Movie in the Park. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a family friendly movie and connect with neighbors. Church in City Park allowed us to worship God's creation while the beauty of the outdoors served as a reminder of God's many blessings. Like air conditioning! We ended the month with Christmas in July, bringing a bit of holiday cheer and an actual Santa Claus to us during the warm summer months. None of these would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and everyone who participated. As we look ahead to fall, I encourage everyone to stay connected, continue inviting friends and neighbors to worship, and seek opportunities to serve. May we carry the spirit of summer and some of the heat into the months ahead as we continue growing in faith and fellowship. May God continue to bless Our Savior's , our community, and each of you.

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 9:30 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.





Treasurer's Report: Each council member was provided with a Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss YTD Comparison. The following account balances as of April 30th were noted.

GENERAL FUND.....	\$40,292.10
BUILDING FUND.....	10,815.26
MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIPS.....	1,176.81
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.....	458.63
FARM FUND (Checking).....	\$239,705.87

Haley noted a discrepancy between the statement and current bank amount for Capital Campaign fund, but after checking, it does match. \$14,000 from the Foundation to the Youth Fundraising Account. Total income and expenses were reviewed. About \$1,600 leftover from Pr. Nicholas's severance pay. We are almost breaking even and bringing in about as much as going out. Discussion on youth funds which are split into 3 different funds—coffee money, youth fundraising, and youth activities. Financial reports filed as read.

Staff Reports:

a.Pastor Jared Carson- We are moving away from Easter and into a new season of worship. There will be a baptism at the end of the month where we will welcome new members. Many compliments on Senior Sunday. Now accepting hymn requests from congregation. More contemporary music being worked in; looking for volunteers to help lead new songs (Pr. Jared will have microphone available for those interested); hoping to use piano more for contemporary music. The goal for transition is to start a call committee in August or September; we can anticipate another year with Pr. Jared. Discussed Stewardship for All Seasons, an online cohort to help create a plan and increase giving. National Day of Prayer was May 7th; turnout wasn't as good as we hoped. Crop Hunger Walk brought in 150+ people. Baccalaureate on May 20th and VCHS Graduation on May 24th.

b.Kyla Fetsch- Last senior high lunch this Friday; will be switching to Mondays next year as it's much easier to plan for attendance; very helpful volunteers this year! Vacation Bible School is in 2 weeks; about 50 registered. Last week was the last week of Senior High Youth Group; attended Crop Walk. Confirmation parent/mentor meeting tonight; 4 mentor sessions before August; confirmation group will connect with 11th & 12th grade SHYG; Confirmation Sunday is October 25th. Youth trip in July; about 20 students registered. Sunday School wrapped up with beginning of year numbers; thank you to Katie for serving as Sunday School Superintendent. No summer lunches this year.

Committee Updates/Council Action

a. Katie (Worship & Music) – Planning for 9:30 AM start time, with coffee hour before worship; this was decided using data from the survey sent to congregation. Possibly 10 AM for fall; council agreed this would make it easier.

b. Bill (Property) – \$30,000 coming from farm fund for maintenance (initial request). Fixing the elevator and getting it up to code will come out of building funds (\$4,528.37). Discussion was had about dishwasher; decided to not move forward with a new dishwasher. Blake Stephens will reseed grass at the parsonage and church, cleaning up landscaping, mowing, etc. Existing parsonage inspection will be on June 2nd; expected to have to make repairs; consider having a check-in/check-out procedure for the next pastor. Current issues that need to be addressed: boiler leak & working on alarm system notifications (Paul); Service Master carpet cleaning; construction material clean-up downstairs; southwest landing marquis and masonry, leaking water into the basement (\$4,000); painting (\$2,300); signage (\$5,000); countertop (\$5,700), Bill knows we can get this much cheaper; steeple (\$8,000); floor tiles (\$5,000). Total cost for all will be roughly \$35,000 to wrap up capital campaign; discussion on moving this from the general fund/parsonage sale and replenish over 3.5 years with \$10,000 annual amount from the farm fund. Ross motioned to advance \$35,000 to Capital Campaign to wrap up Capital Campaign projects from the sale of the parsonage proceeds. The farm fund will pay back the general fund \$10,000/year for the next 4 years. Katie seconded. No further discussion. All approved.

Old Business

Church Events during Summer – June: Potluck & BINGO after worship. July: Picnic at Chautauqua Park, probably a Wednesday around the 4th of July. August: Sons of Norway Accordion Band at City Park and outdoor worship.

New Business

a.Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS). In Pastor Jared's report. Cohort starts June 1st. Re-establishing what giving means post-capital campaign. Katie motioned to establish committee & utilize the SAS program. Ross seconded. No further discussion. All approved. SAS cost is \$3,500; can be paid over two years. Pastor Jared will work on recruiting committee members.

d. Service & Sharing Committee Member. Motion to approve Audrey Poukka to be a member of the Service and Sharing Committee. Jared motioned to approve. Kyla seconded. No further discussion. All approved.

d.Copier Purchase/Lease. Looking for a couple of people to join Pr. Jared in researching copiers and come to June meeting with recommendations. Consider leasing vs. buying, trading in, etc.



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

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August 2026



**Summer
Worship Time
9:30am
Coffee and
Fellowship
8:45 am**