



**Valley  
Community**  
Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, December 31, 2023

# GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC

Kaia Sand, oboe

OPENING SENTENCES

Jim Parks & Dawn Schuldt

HYMN #121      *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1 & 4)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Sheila Sheldon

God of beginnings, we are walking into an unknown year. We face the future not knowing what the days and months will bring to us or how we will respond. Bless us with your love as we face this journey. May we welcome all who come our way. Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes. Fill us with hope and an abiding trust that you will dwell in our hearts in times of challenge and joy.

We turn to you in hope, knowing that you have the power to make all things new. Help us rise each day filled with your hope, and ready to journey with you by our side. Lead us and guide us into this new year, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS #545

*Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.*

*This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.*

# HEARING THE WORD

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the baptisms of **Mersiha**, **Lillian**, and **Luc LaBelle**.  
Lillian was born 5/30/2014. Luc was born 6/18/2016.  
Lillian and Luc are the children of Mersiha and Jacob LaBelle.

And the baptisms of **Henry Hayes**, and **Jillene Hayes**.

**Sheila**: ...Let us welcome this newly-baptized children of God.

**All**: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in Christ's ministry, for we are all one in Christ. Amen.

## TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

**Congregational Blessing**: You are God's beloved child.  
With you God is well pleased.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-38

### SERMON

*An Old Man and a Baby*

Rev. Richard Buller

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## HYMN #684

*Faith Begins by Letting Go* (verses 1 & 2)

*Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.*

*Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.*

## NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION

Jacob & Mersiha LaBelle  
Henry Hayes  
Jillene Hayes

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Witness with Integrity:  
A New Year to Live the Truth*

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, as we rejoice in the birth of your Son, draw near to us so we may follow him in faith. We pray that our lives will announce love to others. Take our offerings into your hands so that our gifts may go into the world blessed and expanded by your grace and abundance. Amen.

## SENDING US OUT

HYMN #110

*Love Has Come* (verses 1 & 3)

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies,  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.  
Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

## Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 31

Sponsored by **Richard & Carole Martens**  
In honor of Carole's mother, Malvina Schmidt.

Please click [HERE](#) to dedicate your chancel flowers.

# Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Jeremy Lund** who was admitted to the hospital on 12/22/23 with a fever of 103.3. He's septic, on antibiotics, and IV fluids.

Prayers for **Charlotte Davnie** who was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a port put in on Dec 4 and started her first chemotherapy infusion on 12/6/23.

Continued prayers for **Lisa Kummer** whose chemo drug Sassy has failed. Her cancer didn't respond to it, so they are moving on to find one that does. The CT scan showed that the cancer spots in her lungs, sternum, and neck lymph nodes had all grown, along with some new spots in her neck and lungs, and a spot on her back or spine. A spot on one of her ribs which has actually led to a fracture in that rib. Her biggest ask is for prayers that this new drug works, the cancer stops growing, and that she can manage the side effect. Click [HERE](#) to visit Lisa's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** who had a scan on 12/18/23 and the results showed the trail drug is holding back the cancer. A small victory, but they're thankful. Click [HERE](#) to visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** as he recovers from a heart and kidney transplant he had at Abbott Hospital on Nov 28. Rick is now recovering at home! Click [HERE](#) to visit Rick's Caring Bridge site.

## EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO VALLEY AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE ONE TIME OR RECURRING

### 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK TO VALLEY

- In the memo of the check, indicate what your donation is for (i.e. Pledge, PRISM, etc.)

### 2. ONLINE GIVING

- Visit Valley's secured online giving by clicking [HERE](#) to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.

**RECURRING GIFTS:** Sign in, or create a new account.

**ONE-TIME GIFTS:** Click "[Quick Give](#)" to send a one-time gift.

### 3. AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

- Contact Chelsie Larsen: 507-272-1914 | [chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

# This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 31

9:30 am Worship Service

Adult & Child Baptisms

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Monday, January 1

Office Closed—New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 2

Wednesday, January 3

Thursday, January 4

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

Sunday, January 7

9:30 am Worship Service

With Communion

10:30 am Congregational Meeting  
to end the Pastoral Relationship

with Rev. Richard Buller

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

3:00 pm Organ Concert

Chuck Meyer's Birthday

A special thank you to our  
Worship Stream Team  
Katie Decker, Myron Jones,  
Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen,  
Janet Triplett, Brandon Novy,  
Roger Graphenteen, and  
Kurt Wheeler, for broadcasting  
the services!

# Valley Staff

## Ministers

All 403 members of this  
congregation.

## Pastor & Head of Staff

Rev. Richard D. Buller

## Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon

## Office Administrator

William Glasper

## Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

## Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

## Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

## Sunshine Room Leader

James Decker

## Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

## PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Jim Cook

Rev. Bill Davnie

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau

Rev. David Phillips

Rev. Nancy Phillips

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

Rev. Aron Wilterding

## SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Dec 24 | 9:30am: 148 (101 in-person)

Dec 24 | 4:30pm: 238 (205 in-person)

Dec 24 | 9:30pm: 129 (107 in-person)

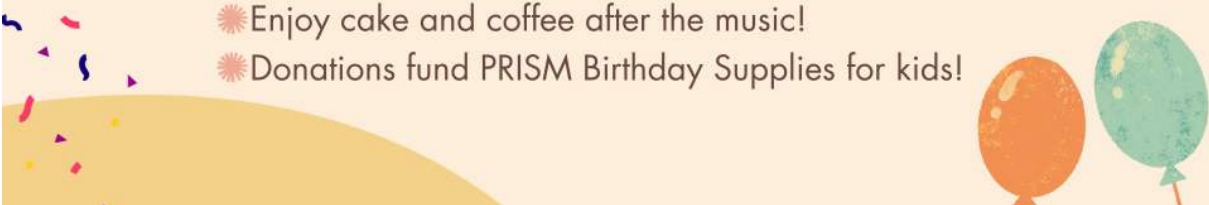




Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 3:00pm

# ORGAN CONCERT

In honor of **CHUCK MEYER'S** 86th Birthday  
Celebration at Valley

- ☀️ Enjoy organ music from Jane & Bob Nienaber!
  - ☀️ Enjoy cake and coffee after the music!
  - ☀️ Donations fund PRISM Birthday Supplies for kids!
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## Rev. Richard Buller's Last Sundays in the Valley

Valley   
Community  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024:**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO END THE PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP WITH  
REV. RICHARD BULLER

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024:**

REV. RICHARD BULLER'S LAST SUNDAY IN THE VALLEY





Valley Community  
**Fridays in  
the Valley**  
**Presents: TRE AMICI**

Momoko Tanno, soprano  
Joseph Longo, clarinet  
Susan Hellerud, piano


**Seven Decades of Great American Songs**

FRIDAY, January 12, 2024 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
**LIBERTY CHURCH NORTHSIDE HEALING SPACE**



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024: MLK JR. DAY



**8-12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

1605 Douglas Drive North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Contact **Andrew Pitan** or **Valley**  
for sign-up instructions.





# Valley Community

**2024  
PER CAPITA  
\$38.50**

Your per capita supports the larger church  
to do their ministry in the world.



**TRANSITIONAL PASTOR**

**REV. JIM COCHRANE**

Begins February 1, 2024

Rev. Jim Cook Preaches  
January 21 & 28, 2024



**Valley Community**



# Chancel Flowers Sign-up



\* SPONSORS \* PURCHASERS \* ARRANGERS \*

SUGGESTED \$30 MINIMUM

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall  
or click this ad!



## THESE DAYS

*Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*



JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | 2024

Physical copies of *These Days* can be mailed upon request.

Contact the office: [office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net) | 763 588 0831

# Happy Birthday Valley Family!

1/2 Kerrie Deef	1/22 Andy Freeman
1/2 Alannah McCarthy	1/22 Hunter Sheldon
1/4 David Kopischke	1/23 Roy Michael
1/4 Kurt Wheeler	1/25 Thomas Davison
1/6 Rev. Aron Wilterding	1/26 Adam Chancellor
1/7 Matt Barbero	1/26 Rev. Deborah Fortel
1/8 Miranda Bangu	1/26 Rev. David Sawyer
1/8 Sammuel Decker	1/26 Tom Wasmoen
1/8 William Gonsior	1/28 Lois Berhow
1/8 Chuck Meyer	1/28 Dennis Hinkle
1/9 Andrew Desarmeaux	1/28 Jonathan Marshall
1/10 Janette Gove	1/28 Diane McCunn
1/10 Gerald Kramer	1/28 Cameron Smith
1/10 Nanette Sears	1/29 Diane Cook
1/11 Ashley Bi	1/30 Ziggy Barbero
1/11 Karen Ripley	1/30 Sadie Macias
1/11 Keri Wasmoen	1/30 Arianna Slack
1/12 Susan League	1/31 Susie Potter
1/15 Samantha Schellhaas	
1/17 Joseph Sears	
1/18 Aurora Brooker	
1/20 Sullivan Goiffon	
1/20 Richard Sauter	
1/20 Ken Smith Jr.	





# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

**—Established May 20, 1951—**

## **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Valley Community Presbyterian Church sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.

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Phone Ministry: 763-220-1455



**Scan to give online!**