



**Valley Community  
Presbyterian Church**

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Third Sunday of Advent: JOY  
Sunday, December 17, 2023

# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*While By My Sheep*  
Jeffrey Blersch  
*Away in a Manger*  
Charles Ore  
*In Dulci Jubilo*  
Dale Wood  
*Shepherd's Noel*  
J. Wayne Kerr

Jane Nienaber, organ

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Give My Heart*  
Linda Kachelmeier

Valley Choir

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE, PEACE, JOY

Greg & Mary Rom  
Craig, Melissa, Connor & Gabe Gottschalk  
Kevin, Kelsie, Everett & Iris Hagelin

Dear God, our hearts are glad when we remember your love for us. We see you work in the world as you bring your spirit to all people. Help us to feel joy every day as we look forward to the greatest joy of Christmas... when you send your son Jesus to be born in a manger. Amen.

### HYMN #123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1 & 5)

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Sheila Sheldon

Lord of Love, you have revealed yourself as one who strives to bring justice and peace to those who know oppression and violence. In a world that seeks to reward the powerful, you cast your eyes on the poor and the outcast. We pray that you would come to your people and help us respond to your call. Open our eyes to the lowly. Fill us with compassion for victims of war and for new refugees. Lead us into ministries that help families who struggle.

During this Advent time, open our hearts to share bread with the hungry, to share warm clothes with those who lack resources, and share our hearts with those who are isolated and alone. We pray for you to lead our footsteps to stand with the poor, so that we might stand with you. 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 GOD'S PROMISE IN ADVENT

*Oh, the light shines in the darkness, and the light will not be overcome.  
In this world broken and scattered the light will not be overcome.*

## HEARING THE WORD

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the baptisms of Ne'Von Johnson & Neiko Griffin.

Ne'Von was born 10/14/23 and Neiko was born 3/29/19.

They are the children of Monique St. John.

Sheila: ...Let us welcome this newly-baptized child.

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

*The Coventry Carol*  
Arr. John Leavitt

Valley Choir  
Taichi Chen, violin

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

### SERMON

*Informed Consent*

Rev. Richard Buller

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN

*No Wind at the Window* (verses 1, 2 & 4)

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door;  
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;  
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:  
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

*"O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.  
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.  
The time for redeeming the world has begun,  
and you are requested to mother God's Son."*

*No payment was promised, no promises made;  
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.  
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,  
replied with conviction, "Tell God I say, Yes."*

## 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

*Valley Christmas Offering*

Gail Smith

### OFFERTORY

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
Arr. Linda McKechnie

Valley Handbells

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, as you draw near to us through the incarnation of your son Jesus Christ, 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 #145

*What Child Is This?* (verses 1 & 3)

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Christopher Uehlein

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

## Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 17

Sponsored by Nancy Olson

In honor of faith, family, and friends!

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

# Joys and Concerns

Prayers of joy for the **Karwan family** as their Special Immigration Visa has been approved! This ensures the family can safely and permanently stay in the USA. Thank you to all who helped with the Karwan family!

Prayers for **Jan & Joe Sacco** as their brother-in-law, Richard Lavasseur, passed away on 12/13/23. He was married to Joe's youngest sister Brenda. He is pain-free and at peace.

Prayers for **Mary Dunham** who was at Abbott with breathing issues and is now home.

Prayers for **Carolyn Kaehr** who was rushed to HCMC by ambulance on Nov 21 because she fell. She had a small stroke with a mild concussion. They are running various tests.

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 Dec 6.

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** whose scan results included the words stable and decrease! Taichi feels good with no side effects. Weekly appointments will continue for 6 weeks. We are grateful for all the support! 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.



# 2023 Poinsettia Tree



Peggy Neibling & Brooking Family  
Betsy Nichols  
Janet & Len Biggs  
Roger Michael

Greg & Mary Rom

Ruth & Aron Wilterding  
Ben & Lisa Kummer  
Margie Deutsch  
Carole & Rick Martens

Jill Toering  
Thomas & Stacy Ondov  
Jan & Joe Sacco

Sharon & Brad Pleimling  
Barb & Tom Wasmoen

Richard & Jean Ann Buller  
Roger Graphenteen

Mandy Lund  
Jim Parks & Family

Jim & Diane Cook  
Lyn Boyd & Family  
Mark & Shirley Toering  
Juliana Vogel  
Rick & Janet Carlson

Becky Grosshuesch  
Valerie Robinson  
Mark Freeman

In memory of Betty Brooking  
In memory of Doug & Trudy Nichols  
In memory of our parents  
In memory of Marian Michael  
Fred & Blanch Benner, and Earl & Dorothy Michael  
In memory of Michael Hnatko, Elizabeth Hnatko Hicks  
Ray & Barbara Rom, and Paul Hicks  
In memory of our daughter JoAnna  
In memory of Dave Turany  
In memory of Manfred Deutsch  
In honor of our Martens, Schmidt,  
and Wendorf family  
In memory of Richard Hegle  
In honor of our loving parents  
In memory of Carol & Jack Rock  
In memory of Jean & Tom Sacco  
In honor of a peace-loving world  
In memory of Patricia & Lu Wasmoen  
In honor of John & Patricia Ingmand  
In honor of our beloved Valley Community  
In memory of my parents Palmer & Dorothy Graphenteen  
and Daughter Allyson Rose  
In memory of Donovan & Julie Lund  
In memory of Karla Parks, Delbert & Lorraine Parks,  
and Melbert & Shirley Holzer  
In honor of Friendship Group  
In memory of Arvel & Marilyn Koehn  
In honor of our children & grandchildren  
In memory of Juliana's mother Carolyn Habert  
In honor and gratitude of everyone who  
prayed and continues to pray for the Carlson family  
In memory of Betty Allabough  
In honor of Sheila's birthday  
In memory of Eldon Mastin, Donald Freeman,  
and Karen Pratt-Freeman



# 2023 Poinsettia Tree



Rachel, Brian & David Hole

In memory of Tyler Hole, Rev. Howard Skulstad,  
and Bob Kreutzian  
In honor of Richard, Jean Ann, Peter, & Martin Buller

Mary & Larry Dunham

In memory of Kenny & Janet Fox,  
Ray Fox, Terry Fox, and Dale Dunham

Gwyn Lang

In honor of my mom Margaret Faber

Mary Ann Winter

In honor of my grandchildren  
In memory of Isabel Leaf

Jerry & Chris Phelan

In memory of Chris' parents  
John & Helen Kromel

Bonnie Nelson

In memory of Vicki Wheeler and Violet & Harold Nelson

Les & Arlene Freeberg

In honor of our grandchildren

Deb Poynter

In memory of my parents Rev. & Mrs. William Niles  
In honor of Valley youth

Karen Harms

In memory of my heavenly family celebrating Valley Church

Gwen Rouleau & John Zieska

In honor of our parents and grandparents

Todd & Katie Decker

In memory of our grandparents

Jay & Sara Perry

In memory of Steve Copenhaver

Gail & Doug Smith

In memory of Gail's parents  
Dr. & Mrs. F. W. Lanand, and Gail's sister Nancy Warner

Terry & Bonnie Goslinga

In memory of Terry's sister Sharon Swanson

Becky Brooking

In honor of Peggy Neibling

Susie Potter

In memory of my parents Jan & George Potter

Lois Robinson

In memory of Gordon Robinson

Lynn Thier

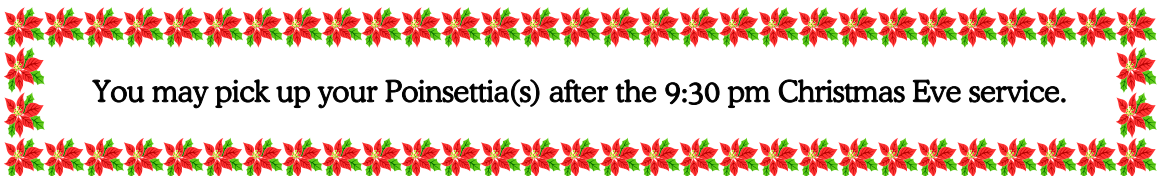
In memory my dad Lloyd Pedersen, my sister Kristy Oakley,  
and grandpa George Spencer

Jackie & Bennett Goiffon

In memory of Bennett's grandparents  
Marie & Lorrin Bullberg

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

In memory of Barbara Johnston



You may pick up your Poinsettia(s) after the 9:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

# This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 17

9:30 am Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

Christmas Music Sunday

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Cookie Exchange

Monday, December 18

Tuesday, December 19

11:30 am Valley Men's Lunch

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 20

Thursday, December 21

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24

9:30 am Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau Preaching

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

4:30 pm Christmas Eve

Family Service

9:30 pm Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

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

Jamese 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

December 10: 325 (149 in-person)

December 3: 276 (150 in-person)



# CHRISTMAS OFFERING



## Valley Community Christmas Offering

Meals on Wheels is one of the recipients of our Special Christmas Offering. Valley Community has long been involved in supporting this incredible outreach (our involvement once called Dinner at Your Door). Our members join a team of drivers once or more a month bringing good meals to homebound folks. Contributions support the supplies needed. PEOPLE RESPONDING IN SOCIAL MINISTRY (PRISM) has been “our” ministry for over 79 years, as Valley Community is instrumental in forming this outstanding partner in ministry.

An almost full-service outreach meets needs where they exist, and those who come for assistance receive help, hope, and love. Designate your “pay it forward” gift VALLEY CHRISTMAS.

Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 3:00pm

## 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!



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24, 2023

**9:30 AM**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**4:30 PM**

Christmas Eve Family Service | **Music 4:15 pm**

**9:30 PM**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Communion



# Rev. Richard Buller's Last Sundays in the Valley



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

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

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

REV. RICHARD BULLER'S LAST SUNDAY IN THE VALLEY



# 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.



# 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



# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

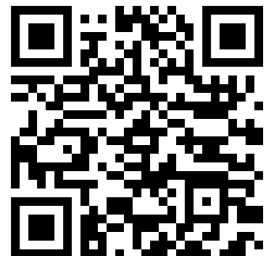
**—Established May 20, 1951—**

## 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.

3100 Lilac Drive North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
[www.valleychurch.net](http://www.valleychurch.net)  
Office: 763-588-0831  
Phone Ministry: 763-220-1455



Scan to give online!