



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

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 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

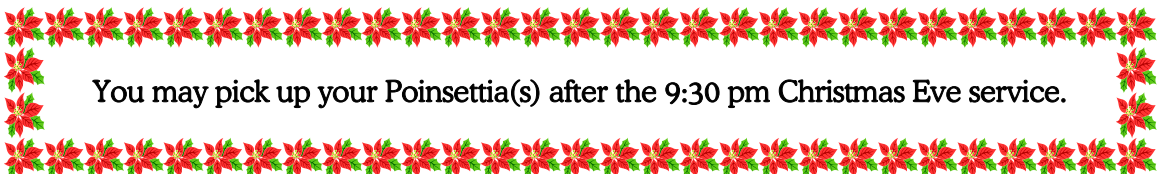
In memory my dad Lloyd Pedersen, my sister Kristy Oakley,
and grandpa George Spencer

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

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

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 | 763 588 0831

Happy Birthday Valley Family!

12/1 John Chancellor	12/16 William Chancellor
12/1 Madeline Lund	12/16 Kurt Modert
12/2 Marilyn Merino	12/17 Pam Magill
12/2 Anders Tracy-Heinonen	12/17 Sylvan Tracy-Heinonen
12/2 Andy Wandmacher	12/18 Melissa Novy
12/3 Marisol Freeberg	12/19 Mary Rom
12/3 Betsy Malecha	12/21 Marjorie Deutsch
12/3 Aubrey Soens	12/22 Sheila Sheldon
12/4 Brian Parks	12/23 Michael Craven
12/5 Leigh Gautsche	12/23 Aurora Messer
12/5 Terry Goslinga	12/24 Sharon Pleimling
12/5 Jill Reiswig	12/24 Ellen Vannucci
12/5 Stephanie Toering-Peters	12/24 Lilice Yopp
12/6 David Hole	12/25 Virginia Day
12/6 Naomi Tracy-Hegg	12/26 Cynthia Malinowski
12/7 Leo Kummer	12/26 Beverly Mattin
12/7 Andrew Pitan	12/27 Evan Jurgensen
12/8 Melinda Marshall	12/27 Chuck Ulmer
12/11 Sydney Kara	12/28 Heather Griffin
12/11 Jennifer Malecha	12/28 K Marshall
12/11 Nikii Minter	12/28 Dave McCunn
12/12 Janet Biggs	12/29 Theo Morrow
12/13 Jim Tarbell	12/29 Sara Schiebout
12/13 Sarah Willey	12/31 Carrie Priem
12/14 Eda Inman	





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
Office: 763-588-0831
Phone Ministry: 763-220-1455



Scan to give online!