

THE VALLEY

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



763-588-0831
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Pastor Richard's last day at Valley | Sunday, January 14**
- Fridays in the Valley (page 6)
 - Friday, December 8 @ 7 PM | Above Average Tuba Quartet
 - Friday, January 12 @ 7 PM | Songs from the Great American Songbook
 - Friday, February 9 @ 7 PM | 10th Wave
- **Celebrate Advent and Christmas in the Valley! (pages 4, 5)**
- Annual Meeting - Sunday, February 11

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Bridging Dresser Build - December 2 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 10)**
 - **Contact Andrew Pitan with questions or to sign up**
- There are many ways to serve our community this Advent season (page 5)
- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day - January 15 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM (page 6)**
- NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

DECEMBER 2023

Dear Valley Family,

When Jean Ann and I told our grandson Oliver that Alika was preaching on November 12, he asked us "how come Sheila isn't preaching?" Well, it turned out that both Sheila and Alika tapped into our feelings related to change and looking into the future. Both sermons and services were also very helpful to me as I look ahead to my unknown future. We are so blessed by our gifted preachers!



Rev. Richard Buller

Our **Mission Sunday** reminded all of us how proud we are to partner with so many community agencies who look to us for support, love, and prayer. **All ten of these causes accepted our invitation to attend worship, not knowing that each would be receiving \$10,000 to continue their work.** They were full of gratitude for being included in such a generous gift. We are surely grateful that each organization reaches out to our neighbors in such powerful ways.

Now that **Advent** is here, we can all look forward to preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. With so many children in our midst, we can remember how it felt to be a young person in the month of December. And with that thought, I want to highlight all the ways we think of others this Advent.

- The **PRISM Toy Shoppe will be held in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 16.** Now that the Julie Tree is up in our Atrium, we are ready to receive your gifts for all ages of children. See the list we have included on page 5 and bring your unwrapped items to brighten a family's Christmas experience.
- PRISM is also in need of food supplies. **Baking items and holiday food** are especially appreciated this time of year.
- On **Saturday, December 2nd**, a group of volunteers will be meeting at **Bridging** to build dressers for neighbors who are moving back into a home after losing their housing. Call the office if you would be able to help.

As we look ahead to worship, **December 10 is our children's pageant and program that highlights our Valley Kids.** It happens during worship which helps all of us to learn the names of our youngest little members and also allows us to see how they grow through the years! I love seeing all the pictures afterward come up on social media and Valley's website.

December 17th is our Christmas Music Sunday. We will have piano, organ, handbells, flute, and adult choir. This is always a very special service.



Baptisms are always a cause for celebration! Brothers Landon and Sullivan were baptized on the same day and welcomed into the Valley family. (Nov. 19)

Then, on **December 24th**, we observe the **4th Sunday of Advent with Kate O'Brien Soltau preaching at 9:30 am.** It will be a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas Eve that night. The first of our two Christmas Eve services will begin at 4:30 pm (music beginning at 4:15 pm). This is our Christmas Eve Family Service. We will have darkness and candles along with a full cast of musicians. We will not have Communion at this service. Then at 9:30pm, we will gather for our service of lessons and carols which includes communion. Both services include a meditation.

Our wonderful **Tuba Christmas musicians** will join us once again for **Fridays in the Valley on December 8th at 7pm.** Please remember to bring a friend! Our offering that night supports the PRISM Toy Shoppe, so it is a win-win evening for all of us!

I want to remind all of you to turn in your **pledge cards** if you have not yet done so. With all of our changes in the months ahead, I also remind you that Valley is in a great position to attract a gifted church leader to take you on the next journey.

And every day, I give thanks to God, for being called as your pastor. The time spent with all of you has been a true partnership. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Merry Christmas,

Richard

STEWARDSHIP 2024

**LAST CALL FOR PLEDGES
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

The Valley Session is in the process of finalizing the 2024 budget. Approximately 85% of Valley's 2024 budget income is derived from stewardship pledges. As a result, the stewardship goal for the current campaign has been set at just over \$436,500. To date, we have received stewardship pledges totaling roughly 83% of this goal!

But we are still waiting for over 30 pledges to come in from folks who have pledged in the past.

Whether you pledge or defer pledging at this time, please contact Chelsie Larsen at 507-272-1914 or email at chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net of your intention by December 11, 2023.

By your response we will know that no one has been left behind.

Where Gratitude
is Paid Forward



ADVENT 2023 SCHEDULE

- Sunday, Dec. 3 | **9:30 AM 1st Sunday of Advent | Worship with communion**
- Sunday, Dec. 10 | **9:30 AM 2nd Sunday of Advent | Baptism of Sam Rudeen**
Christmas Pageant (during worship)
- Sunday, Dec. 17 | **9:15 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent | Christmas Music Sunday**
| 11:00 AM Christmas Cookie Exchange
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Katie Decker
- Sunday, Dec. 24 | **9:30 AM 4th Sunday of Advent | Worship**
Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau preaching
- | **4:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service** (music starts at 4:15 pm)
- | **9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion**

POINSETTIAS

We need your help to decorate the Sanctuary with our beloved Poinsettia Tree! Poinsettias cost \$10 each. Order a plant for the tree or designate that your plant be given to a homebound Valley member. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Eve Service. All orders are due by Friday, December 1st. Order forms are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, or call the church office to order.

CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED

This has become a treasured Advent tradition here at Valley. If you and your family would be interested in reading the dedication and lighting a candle during an Advent worship service please contact Mariah (Mariah.Messer@valleychurch.net). We're looking for 6-10 families to volunteer and this is a great way to get our youngest members involved in worship.

2023 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The VCPC 2023 Christmas Pageant will debut on Sunday, December 10th during worship! Join us for worship on **Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 AM** to see our Valley kids and youth tell the Christmas Story as only kids can.

We are looking forward to getting Valley kids of all ages involved this year again! Many of the roles are not speaking parts, so all ages and skill-levels are welcome. Please email Mariah at Mariah.messer@valleychurch.net if you have any questions. Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 AM.



Advent in the Valley

Christmas Services



LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

4:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (music starts at 4:15 pm)

9:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

Christmas in the Valley



PRISM TOY SHOPPE



The **PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe** will be held at Valley again this year and we could not be more excited! The Holiday Toy Shoppe provides families and guardians with the opportunity to "shop" for new gifts for each of their children. While you are doing your holiday shopping, please keep PRISM kids in mind! Here's a list of popular gifts:

- ACTION FIGURES
- TODDLER TOYS
- SPORTS ATTIRE
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- BLANKETS
- GIFT CARDS (AMAZON, TARGET, VISA)
- NERF TOYS
- LEGOS
- GAMES

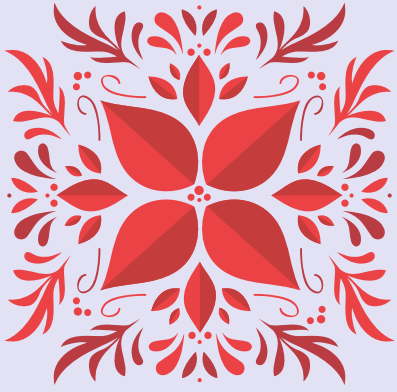
ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG



This year, as every year, we invite you to consider the **VCPC Alternative Gift Catalog** when beginning your holiday shopping. Donations will be made on the behalf of your gift recipient to one of our community partners. You will then receive a card and informative insert to give to them, telling them about the organization. It's a gift that can have a powerful ripple effect throughout our community and our world.

Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall to learn more.

POINSETTIA SALE



'Tis the season
to decorate our
Sanctuary

Order forms in
the Narthex

**CALL THE OFFICE OR SIGN
UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
ORDER BY DEC. 3**

BRIDGING DRESSER BUILD

1730 TERRACE DR. ROSEVILLE, MN 55113

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

10 volunteers needed.
Dress comfortably in clothes you can get dirty.
Close-toed shoes required.

**SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
CONTACT ANDREW PITAN WITH QUESTIONS
VISIT BRIDGING.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BRIDGING**



Valley Brew Crew

SUNDAY, DEC 3 | 1:00-6:00 PM

**PAT DAILY'S HOUSE
REFERENCE YOUR DIRECTORY**

**IT'S VALLEY BREW CREW TIME!
Come hang out with Valley
friends and try some
Blue Ribbon-winning craft beverages!**



POTLUCK

Have an appetizer or side dish recipe you need
to test out? We make great guinea pigs!
Beverages of all kinds | Kids Always Welcome

CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS

**Fridays in the
Valley Presents:**

**ABOVE AVERAGE
TUBA QUARTET**

DECEMBER 8 | 7:00 PM

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
PRISM HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE**



Cookie Exchange

**Sunday,
December 17
11:00 am**

Fellowship Hall



**Bake 6+ dozen of your favorite
cookie(s) and bring them to
Fellowship Hall for the big swap!**

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact
Katie Decker or Sheila Sheldon

Habitat for Humanity

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023: MLK JR. DAY



12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

1605 Douglas Dr. N, Golden Valley, MN

**Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
contact Andrew Pitán or Valley with questions**

CALENDAR

Join us for coffee and donuts on Sundays following Worship in Fellowship Hall.

Friday, December 1

6:00 pm Rev. Richard's Retirement Party

Saturday, December 2

9:00 am Bridging Dresser Build

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship Service with communion

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, December 4

11:30 am Lunch Bunch at 50's Grill

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, December 8

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, December 9

9:00 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship Service

Christmas Pageant Sunday

4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 13

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, December 15

ALL DAY - PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe

Saturday, December 16

ALL DAY - PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship Service (9:15 am - music begins)

Christmas Music Sunday

11:00 am Holiday Cookie Exchange

Tuesday, December 19

11:30 am Valley Men's Lunch at 50's Grill

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship Service

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau preaching

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
(music starts at 4:15 pm)

9:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with communion

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Thursday, December 29

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

BIRTHDAYS

Leigh Gautsche

Terry Goslinga

Jill Reiswig

Stephanie Toering-Peters

David Hole

Naomi Tracy-Hegg

Leo Kummer

Andrew Pitan

Melinda Marshall

Sydney Kara

Jennifer Malecha

Nikii Minter

Janet Biggs

Jim Tarbell

Sarah Willey

Eda Inman

William Chancellor

Kurt Modert

Pam Magill

Sylvan Tracy-Heinonen

Melissa Novy

Mary Rom

Marjorie Deutsch

Sheila Sheldon

Michael Craven

Aurora Messer

Sharon Pleimling

Ellen Vannucci

Lilice Yopp

Virginia Day

Cynthia Malinowski

Beverly Mattin

Evan Jurgensen

Chuck Ulmer

Heather Griffin

K Marshall

Dave McCunn

Theo Morrow

Sara Schiebout

Carrie Priem

DECEMBER

John Chancellor

Madeline Lund

Marilyn Merino

Anders Tracy-Heinonen

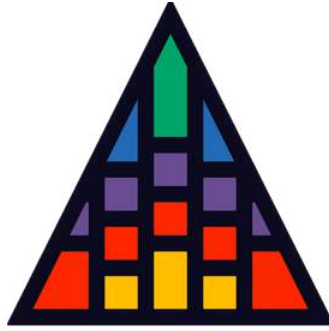
Andy Wandmacher

Marisol Freeberg

Betsy Malecha

Aubrey Soens

Brian Parks



Valley Community

PC(USA)

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

VCPC 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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