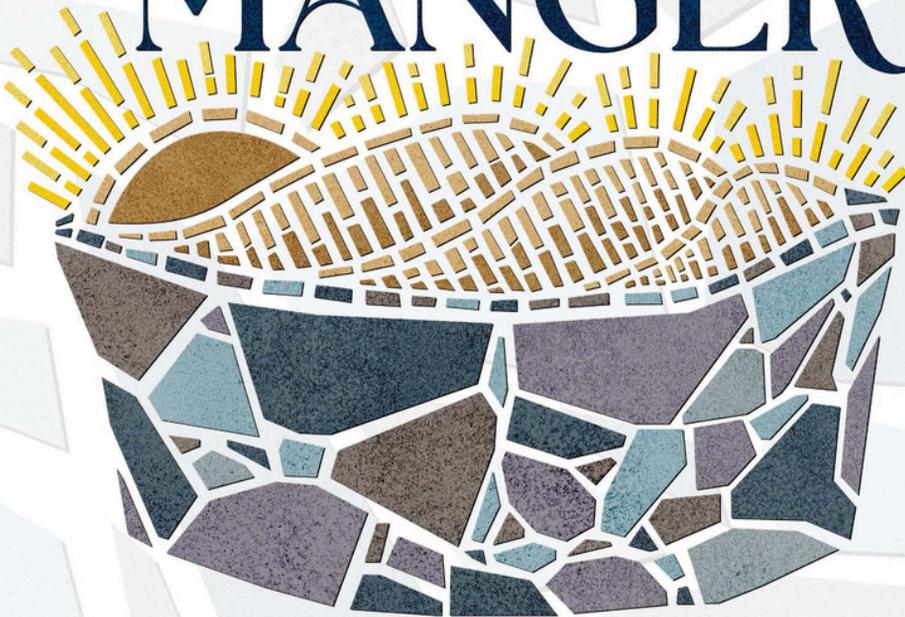




Valley Community

FROM THE MANGER



Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Now is Born the Divine Christ Child
2 Preludes on In Dulci Jubilo
O Come, Little Children
Prelude on a French Carol
Angels from the Realms of Glory

Jane Nienaber, organ

Michael Joseph
Robert Powell, Christopher Uehlein
Jeffrey Blersch
Dale Wood
J. Wayne Kerr

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have you heard the good news? A baby is to be born in Bethlehem, and his birth will bring joy to the world!

All: Jesus will be born to make all things new!

One: Have you heard the good news? God anointed Jesus to proclaim good news to the poor.

All: Jesus will proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind.

One: Jesus will set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of God's favor.

All: Let us worship with glad and joyful hearts- Jesus will be born soon!

One: Let us worship God!

GATHERING MUSIC

Keep Your Lamps
Victor C. Johnson

Valley Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Hope, Peace, Joy

The Hagelin Family
Kevin, Kelsie, Iris and Everett

ADVENT PRAYER

God of compassion, we know many people do not feel joyful today. Some are grieving loss, some are feeling ill. Some people are hungry, some are worried or fearful. We know you see and understand all of our troubles, sadness, and pain. Even though you were born to bring joy, you do not ask us to pretend happiness when life is hard. Today, we pray for our friends, family, and neighbors who feel far from joy. You are close to the brokenhearted, comforting us in all our affliction so we may comfort others. Help us be a community where people feel safe to express all their feelings, from sadness and fear to joy. May we support one another at all times. Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

God of abundant grace, in this season of Advent, we confess the times we've sought our own happiness or comfort at the expense of others. We have ignored others' needs and joys, overlooked the hungry, and forgotten that true joy comes from sharing our abundance. We have forsaken the joy found in uplifting others and ensuring their needs are met. Help us turn away from self-centeredness and toward a life of compassion and generosity.

We also confess the times we have neglected our own joy, treated ourselves unkindly, worked when we should have rested, abandoned the interests and hobbies we cherish, and served purposes that drag us down. Let the expectant joy of Advent inspire us to return to ways that bring us joy. May the world be fed with joy. In Christ we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S PROMISE IN ADVENT***Light Shines in the Darkness***

by Dakota Road

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

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem
arr. Keith Christopher

Roger Eilts, guitar/vocals
Mariah Messer, vocals

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, as we turn to our sacred scriptures, illuminate the texts before us so that we may know Jesus—the true Word of God. Here, we encounter the same joy the shepherds felt when they heard the news of Jesus' birth. May this joy move us toward gratitude and action, nourishing our spirits as we are nourished by your message for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:20 ;19:1-10

SERMON

Joy Grows

Rev. Jim Cochrane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Angels Carol
John Rutter

Valley Choir

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

What Gifts Shall We Bring?

Lisa Tarbell

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High
Tedd Smith and Don Hustad

Rachel Williams
Jane Nienaber

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bring our gifts and offerings with joy and cheer because you have given us new life and freedom in Christ. Our small offering highlights the magnificent ways you have transformed our hearts and held our lives in your loving hands. We could never give enough to buy your love or favor, but we rest in the joy that your love is free and boundless. Bless these gifts to the ministry of your people. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #105

People, Look East (verses 1, 4, 5)

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Rise Up Shepherds
Don Besig

Valley Choir

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Joy to the World
Michael Bedford

Jane Nienaber, organ

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 15

Sponsored by Roger Michael

In memory of Marian on her birthday on December 4th.

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of comfort for the family of former member **Faye Watson** who passed on November 11th. A memorial service will be held at Valley on Friday, December 20th at 2:00 pm.



Linda & Alan Wold ask for prayers for their son-in-law **Lou** who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic liver cancer. His surgery was rescheduled and will now be on December 18th.

Continued prayers for **Susie Potter** who will began her third round of chemotherapy on December 10th, followed by a pet scan at the end of the month. She is feeling good and filled with gratitude. To visit Susie's Caring Bridge go to:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susiepotter>

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** whose recent test results remain stable. He continues to live in gratitude for the love everyone has shared each and every day. To visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen>

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** who has returned home and is currently on the mend. He continues to give thanks for all the support and prayers he has received. To visit Rick's Caring Bridge site go to: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickcarlson101>

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 visiting: <https://valleycommunitypresbyterianchurch.breezechms.com/give/online> to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.

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.

This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 15

Cookie Exchange

Music Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Monday, December 16

5:00 pm Endowment MTG

6:00 pm Church Officer Dinner

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

11:00 am Valley Men's Luncheon Group

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 pm Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 19

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

Handbell Sunday & Taiko Drums

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

Notice of Recording: Please note that services are broadcasted via live stream and digitally recorded on our YouTube Channel.

Special thanks to our Stream Team: Katie Decker, Roger Graphenteen, Myron Jones, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Brandon Novy, Janet Triplett, and Kurt Wheeler for broadcasting the services!

Valley Staff

Ministers

All 382 members of this congregation.

Transitional Pastor

Head of Staff

Rev. Jim Cochran

Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Office Administrator

Savannah Martinez

Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

Sunshine Room Leader

Natalie Peña-Gallegos

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 1: 199 (114 in-person)

December 8: 211 (129 in-person)



2024 Poinsettia



Roger Michael

In memory of Marian Michael,
Fred & Blanch Benner, and Earl & Dorothy Michael

Greg & Mary Rom

In memory of Michael Hnatko, Elizabeth Hnatko Hicks
Ray & Barbara Rom, and Paul Hicks

Ben Kummer

In memory of Lisa Kummer & Dave Turany

Jan & Joe Sacco

In honor of August, Roman, Estelle & Leo Sacco

Barb & Tom Wasmoen

In honor of our parents & our children

Jim & Diane Cook

In honor of the Friendship Group
Jeff, Jeremy, Bobby, Barb & James

Tim & Becky Grosshuesch

In memory of Maggie Grosshuesch
& Betty Allabough

Valerie Robinson

In memory of our parents, Derald & June Sullivan,
Gordon & Lois Robinson

Mary & Larry Dunham

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

Lisa Cawhorn

In memory of Ronald Lybeck & John Cawhorn

Beverly Mattin

In memory of Chuck Mattin

Samantha Schellaas

In honor of Homebound Members

Bonnie Carlson

In honor of Homebound Members

Peggy Neibling

In memory of Betty Brooking

Janet & Len Biggs

In memory of our parents

Dave & Helen Dechaine

In honor of our 4 wonderful grandchildren

Chuck & Bonnie Ulmer

In honor of our grandchildren

Mandy Lund

In memory of Donovan and Julie Lund

Mark & Shirley Toering

In honor of our children and grandchildren

David & Nancy Phillips

In memory of Victor & Nellie Phillips



2024 Poinsettia



Margie Deutsch	In memory of Manfred Deutsch
Jeanine Miakotina	In memory of Mayme and Robert Peters
Mary Ann Winter	In honor of Logan, Maeve, Quinn, Kyra and Annika Winter
Jim & Lisa Tarbell	In memory of Sherrill Mixer and Jim Tarbell Sr.
Jill Reiswig	In memory of Myrle Reiswig
Karen Harms	In memory of my family who's left us
Les & Arlene Freeberg	In honor of our grandchildren
Becky Brooking	In memory of Earl & Emilie Brooking and Henry & Mary Zinn
Betsy Nichols	In memory of Doug & Trudy Nichols
Milosh & Nevena Hougen	In memory of my family
Jim Parks	In memory of Karla Parks, Delbert & Lorraine Parks, and Melbert & Shirly Holzer
Ruth Wilterding	In memory of Aron, JoAnna & Mark Wilterding
Kerrie Deef	In memory of grandparents, Martie & Bob Siegler and in-laws Marge & John Deef
Roger Graphenteen	In memory of parents, Palmer & Dorothy and daughter Allyson Rose
Cheryl Smith	In memory of my parents, Ken & Gay Smith
Joel, Chelsie, Aubrie & Jack Larsen	In memory of grandpa Roger, grandpa Phil, & grandma Mary Lou "Granny"
Jan Fedora	In memory of Tom Fedora, husband and Richard Woodbury, brother
Gwyn Lang	In honor of my mom, Midge Faber
Brad & Sharon Pleimling	In honor of peace to all the world
Kelsie Hagelin	In honor of Valley

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

DEC. 18TH, 7:00 PM

The holidays are a time to celebrate and think back fondly on years past, which can be both heartwarming and difficult for those who have lost loved ones. For that reason, Valley will be holding a Longest Night service on **Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm.** It will be a service of music and scripture as we remember those we love and name the mixed emotions that come with the season.



Christmas Services

LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

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

9:30 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with communion



Valley Community



ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE AN ALTERNATIVE GIFT DONATION THIS SEASON!

SEE ARLENE FREEBERG IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

• DRIVERS NEEDED •

Meals on Wheels

3RD & 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

• DECEMBER 19 & 26 •

ROUTES INCLUDE:

Crystal
New Hope
Robbinsdale
Golden Valley



CONTACTS:

Gail Smith - 3rd Thur
Marge Thurston - 4th Thur
use your directory
or call the office.



Valley Community

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Election of New Church Officers
After the Worship Service



PC(USA)

**2025
OFFERING
ENVELOPES**

PICK UP AT CHURCH

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-3PM - OR - SUNDAYS BEFORE/AFTER WORSHIP

Help the church save on postage by picking up your envelope box
and another member's box who lives near you!

Habitat for Humanity Work Day

MONDAY,
JANUARY 20, 2025
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



Valley Brew Crew

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2025
1:00 - 6:00 PM



SNOW CAMP 2025

GRADES 3RD - 12TH \$175 per camper (youth and adult)

*Snow
Flakes
in His
Hands*



Email Sheila or Mariah for a special coupon code to save \$50!

2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS GRADES 9 & 10

BEGINS MARCH 2, 2025

Contact Sheila to learn more and sign up!
sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net



Happy Birthday Valley Family!



John Chancellor
Madeline Lund
Anders Tracy-Heinonen
Andy Wandmacher
Marisol Freeberg
Betsy Malecha
Aubrey Soens
Brian Parks
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
Virginia Day
Cynthia Malinowski
Beverly Mattin
Evan Jurgensen
Chuck Ulmer
Heather Griffin
K Marshall
Dave McCunn
Theo Morrow
Sara Schiebout
Carrie Priem



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.



LOGO DESIGN BY WÓOKIYE WIN
(SISSETON WAHPETON DAKHÓTA
AND OJIBWAY)

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Scan to give online!