

# THE VALLEY

ADVENT 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

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Golden Valley, MN 55422



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**Cover Photo:** Valley kids and youth performed the annual Christmas Pageant on the 2nd Sunday in Advent. They did an extraordinary job! (Dec. 8)

# Community News

## • MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Advent in the Valley continues (see pages 4 and 5 for all the details!)**
  - Sunday, December 15 @ 9:30 AM | Third Sunday in Advent: **JOY**
  - Wednesday, December 18 @ 7:00 PM | Longest Night Service
  - Sunday, December 22 @ 9:30 AM | Fourth Sunday in Advent: **LOVE**
    - **Congregational Meeting following worship to elect new church officers**
  - Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
    - Family Service @ 4:30 PM (Music begins at 4:15 PM)
    - Candlelight Service @ 9:30 PM (Communion will be served.)
- **Valley Office will be closed on December 25 and 26 in observation of Christmas**
- Valley Office will be closed on January 1 in observation of New Years Day
- **Fridays in the Valley (pages 6)**
  - Friday, January 10 @ 7 PM | The Boston Imposters
  - Friday, February 14 @ 7 PM | Sue Ruby & Friends
- **Clearwater Forest Snow Camp | January 10 - 12 | Grades 3rd - 12th (page 6)**
- Valley Brew Crew | Saturday, January 25 | 1:00 - 6:00 PM @ Valley
- **2025 Confirmation Class | Begins March 2 (page 6)**
  - Contact Sheila to learn more and sign up

## • MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- See Page 3 for a brief update about Silab and his family and a photo of the three kids!
- **Alternative Gift Catalogue (page 5)**
  - Consider giving the gift of change this holiday season!
- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day (page 6)**
  - Monday, January 20 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- **NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.**
- More updates from our Task Forces and committees coming in the January newsletter

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

### ADVENT 2024

Dear Valley Family,

As we approach the end of another calendar year, we move into a time that can be described only as “almost-but-not-quite-yet.” We all start to make our grand plans: this is the year we are going to carve out a healthier lifestyle, or the year we finally get organized, or we finally take that big trip we’ve been longing for. We stand in the present moment and look to the possibilities that await us on the horizons of life, eager with anticipation about what the next year might hold for us.

Spiritual circles often talk about this idea – having your feet in one spot but wondering about what is next – with the idea of liminality. Our senses and our culture crave regularity and normalcy, but our faith pushes us to step out in new directions. This move away from “the way things are” is where all transformation takes place. It is the realm of the Holy Spirit and where the creative work of God is on full display. It is challenging to our cravings for predictability and can be full of “what if’s” and missteps, and it is where we must rely on our faith in the constant, abiding presence of God.



Rev. Jim Cochrane

We are in the middle of **celebrating the coming of Emmanuel, God With Us**, and in doing so we remember that God knows us completely and will walk with us to the ends the earth. In all our successes and failures, our hopes and dreams and worries – in all that we do – God is with each one of us. This is not just comforting for us where we stand in the present, but it allows us to step out in faith. We can be hopeful of what is to come because we know that God will guide us.



Silab & family send their love to Valley! Razaullah (3), Aryanullah (almost 2), and Razia (4.5) are all doing great. Razaullah had a successful surgery and Silab got a new full-time job in security for a bank in Minneapolis.

For the past year, I have encouraged each one of you to begin to **dream about Valley's future**. I've asked you to consider what our values are and how we live them out, what the church might look for in the future, and what gifts are needed in a pastor to guide you there. As I write this letter, our Ministry and Mission Study Team is in communication with the Presbytery about installing a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** so they might begin the work of identifying that exact person. This all-important process will take your prayer and encouragement of all those who will sit on the committee, but it opens the door for this congregation's dreams to come to fruition.

As we approach the new year together, whether your goal for the new year is to finally train for that 5k you've been thinking about, carve out more time to spend with loved ones, or simply experience everything the new year brings as it comes, know that you do so with the unconditional love of God and a community that reflects that love back at you. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

In Christ,

*Jim*



## STEWARDSHIP 2025

LAST CALL FOR PLEDGES: DECEMBER 31, 2024

The Valley Session is in the process of finalizing the 2025 budget, and approximately 85% of Valley's 2025 budget income is derived from stewardship pledges. As a result, the stewardship goal for the current campaign has been set at just over \$388,000. To date, we have received stewardship pledges totaling roughly 90% of this goal!

**There are still a large number of pledges outstanding that will get us to the important 100% pledge goal once they come in.**

Whether you pledge or defer pledging at this time, please contact Chelsie Larsen at 507-272-1914 or email at [chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) of your intention by December 31, 2024.

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

# ADVENT 2024 SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 15	<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent   Christmas Music Sunday</b>
	11:00 AM	Christmas Cookie Exchange Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Katie Decker
Wednes., Dec. 18	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Longest Night Service</b>
Sunday, Dec. 22	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent   Worship   VCPC Bell Choir</b>
Tuesday, Dec. 24	<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Service</b> (music starts at 4:15 pm)
	<b>9:30 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion</b>

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

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.

## POINSETTIAS

**Thank you to everyone who sponsored Poinsettias this year.**

### **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 Schellhaas**

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

### **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

# Christmas Services

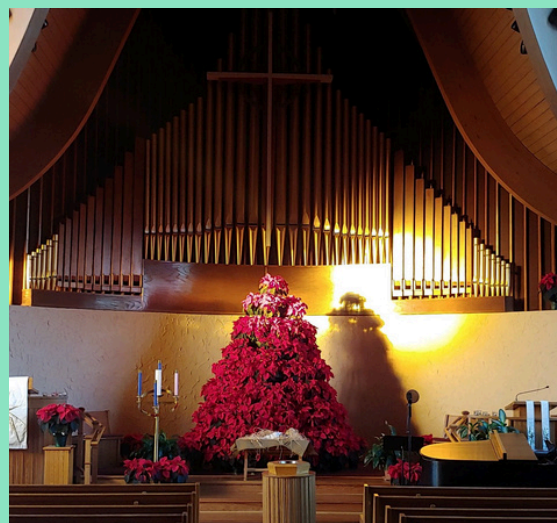
LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

**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

## 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.

**Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Toy Drive and signed up to volunteer! You helped make the 2024 Holiday Toy Shoppe a huge success!**

### 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 or talk to Arlene Freeberg to learn more.**



**- LOOKING AHEAD -  
FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY**

FRIDAY, January 10 | 7:00 pm  
The Boston Imposters

FRIDAY, February 14 | 7:00 pm  
Sue Ruby & Friends

FRIDAY, March 14 | 7:00 pm  
Boom Island String Quartet

FRIDAY, April 11 | 7:00 pm  
The Bernstein Players

FRIDAY, May 9 | 7:00 pm  
Slipjig

SUNDAY, June 8 | 7:00 pm  
Dolce Winds

**FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT  
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**



**2025  
CONFIRMATION CLASS  
GRADES 9 & 10**

**BEGINS MARCH 2, 2025**

Contact Sheila to learn more  
and sign up!  
[sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net](mailto:sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net)

**Habitat for Humanity**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024: MLK JR. DAY



**12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**  
The project is a rehab home in Edina, MN  
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall  
contact **Andrew Pitan** or **Valley** with questions

**SNOW CAMP 2025**  
*Snow Flakes in His Hands*

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

Clearwater Forest Snow Camp 2025  
16595 Crooked Lake Rd  
Deerwood, MN 56444


January 10-12  
Hallett Dining Hall  
7-8 PM Drop Off  
3-4 PM Pick Up

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

**NEW!** **Bible Study**  
2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM in the library.

Join Rev. Rebecca Tollefson for *Let Justice Roll Down*, a wonderful Bible Study focused on creation justice. Come to one or come to them all.

**DATES: 1/9/25, 2/13/25, 3/13/25 & 4/10/25**



**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES**  
**PICK UP AT CHURCH**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM - 4 PM  
OR ON SUNDAYS**

Help the church save on postage by picking up your envelope box.

# CALENDAR

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

**Saturday, December 14**

All Day - PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe

**Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Music Sunday**

**Third Sunday in Advent: JOY**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

10:30 am Cookie Exchange

**Tuesday, December 17**

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

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

**Sunday, December 22**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

9:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

**Office Closed**

**Thursday, December 26**

**Office Closed - Christmas Eve observed**

**Sunday, December 29**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve**

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, January 1**

**Office Closed - New Years Day observed**

**Sunday, January 5**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**Monday, January 6**

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50s Grill

**Tuesday, January 7**

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, January 10**

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

**Friday, January 10 - Sunday, January 12**

Clearwater Snow Camp

**Tuesday, January 14**

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 16**

10:00 am Meals in Wheels

**Sunday, January 19**

9:30 am Worship Service

**Monday, January 20**

9:30 am - 3:30 pm Habitat for Humanity Work Day

**Tuesday, January 21**

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon

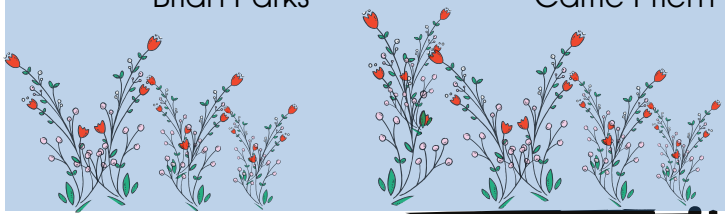
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

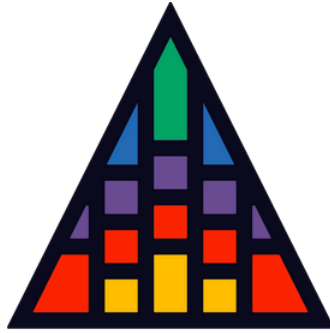
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

# 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  
 Rory 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

John Chancellor  
 Madeline Lund  
 Anders Tracy-Heinonen  
 Andy Wandmacher  
 Marisol Freeberg  
 Betsy Malecha  
 Aubrey Soens  
 Brian Parks





# Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 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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