



# Valley Community



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Sunday, November 30, 2025

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First Sunday in Advent

# GATHERING US IN

## PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*  
Stephen Gabrielsen

Jane Nienaber,  
organ

*Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*  
J.S. Bach

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The prophet Isaiah reminds us that the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares;

**All: And their spears shall become pruning hooks.**

One: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation;

**All: Neither shall they learn war any more.**

One: Come, all you faithful:

**All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

One: Let us worship God!

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
Raymond Haan

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Hope

Valley Staff

## ADVENT PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for this special season of advent. We are excited that Christmas is coming, and we can sing the special carols and remember the story of Bethlehem. Keep us hopeful this December and bring your light of hope to our community and our world. Amen.

## † Hymn #88

### **O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1, 6 & 7)**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your wing. We confess that we have not expected your reign of peaceful wholeness. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised truth. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice. In your abounding mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome you and to seek things that will endure. 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**

### ***The 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**

*Advent Fantasy*  
Judy Phillips

Valley Bell Choir

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44*

## **SERMON**

*What is to Come?*

Rev. Jim Cochrane

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## † Hymn #87

### ***Comfort, Comfort Now My People***

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

## 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 Can I Give Him: Advent 2025*

## OFFERTORY

*People, Look East*  
J. Wayne Kerr

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand, and nurture our souls in all your good gifts. Fill us with overflowing gratitude so we may share life and love in praise to you. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

# SENDING US OUT

## † Hymn #104

### ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You***

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Prepare the Royal Highway*  
David Cherwien

**The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.**

### **Chancel Flowers**

Sunday, November 30

Sponsored by Valerie Robinson

*In honor of our children and grandchildren.*

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall.

# Joys and Concerns

Continued prayers for **Valley Members** in their ongoing health journeys. Updates can be found here as they are made. For those who have them, stay up-to-date by following their CaringBridge profiles here:

**Margie Deutsch** was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. We offer prayers for her and her family as they determine next steps.

**Doug Smith** is receiving hospice care at home.

**Diane McCunn** is receiving hospice care at Urbana Place in Brooklyn Park.

**Carole Martens** was recently diagnosed with CLL. She'll have a follow up test in January.

**Karen Harms** starts her first round of chemo (of four) this Thursday, 11/20.

**Taichi Chen:** We keep Taichi close in our hearts and prayers as he waits for results from his scan on 11/19. <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/taichichen>

**Rick Carlson:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rickcarlson101>

**Susie Potter:** <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susiepotter>

## 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](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

## **This Week at Valley**

**Sunday, November 30**

**1st Sunday in Advent**

**Hanging of the Greens**

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

5:30 pm Youth Group & TEAMS

**Monday, December 1**

11:30 am Lunch Bunch

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

**Tuesday, December 2**

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 3**

6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 4**

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

**Friday, December 5**

**Saturday, December 6**

2:00 pm Full Cast Pageant Rehearsal

**Sunday, December 7**

**2nd Sunday in Advent**

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

5:30 pm Holiday Dinner

7:00 pm \*Sunday\* in the Valley concert:

Above Average Tuba Quartet

**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**

The entire Valley Community!

**Transitional Pastor**

**Head of Staff**

Rev. Jim Cochrane

**Educational Ministries Director**

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

**Office Administrator**

Rachel Hole

**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**

November 16: 210 (103 in-person)

November 23: 201 (112 in-person)

# Adult Education Winter Break

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall 2025 Adult Education program. A special thanks to Carolyn Anderson for all of her help planning the series.

## SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY 2026!



Valley Community

## PRISM 2025 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

VALLEY IS COLLECTING NEW,  
UNWRAPPED TOYS AND GIFTS FOR  
PRISM'S HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- ACTION FIGURES
- TODDLER TOYS
- SPORTS ATTIRE
- BLANKETS
- NERF TOYS
- LEGOS
- GAMES
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- \$25 GIFT CARDS (TARGET, AMAZON, VISA, ETC.)

QUESTIONS  
CONTACT THE  
CHURCH OFFICE

DROP OFF  
GIFTS AT  
VALLEY BY

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 7

Join Us

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7  
AT 5:30 PM

**FITV CONCERT**  
7:00 PM

**The Above Average  
Tuba Quartet**

Bring an unwrapped toy for  
the PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe!

Following the concert enjoy  
Christmas Cookies & Hot Apple  
Cider in the Narthex.



**MENU:** **DINNER WILL BE CATERED!**

- Fresh baked rolls with butter
- Field greens berry salad with Feta
- Garden Salad with choice of dressing
- Roasted root vegetables
- Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
- Holiday Baked Ham/Pineapple Sauce
- Stuffed Chicken with Rice Pilaf

VEGETARIAN AND KIDS MEALS ALSO AVAILABLE

\$25 adults | Kids 10 & Under FREE

Family Max \$60 (parents/kids)

**Tickets available in  
Fellowship Hall or call the office!**

**Fridays in  
the Valley  
Presents:**



**ABOVE AVERAGE  
TUBA QUARTET**

SUNDAY, December 7, 2025 | 7:00 pm

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

 Valley Community

# Cookie Exchange

Sunday,  
December 21  
11:00 am  
Fellowship Hall



## Valley Community



### ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS!

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 email Katie Decker ([katiebdmn@gmail.com](mailto:katiebdmn@gmail.com))  
or Sheila Sheldon ([sheila.sheldon@vallechurch.net](mailto:sheila.sheldon@vallechurch.net)).

# THANK YOU!

To all those in the Valley community who gave of their time,  
talents & treasures this month to make sure Valley Fellowship  
Hour on Sunday mornings was caffeinated and extra delicious!

### COFFEE HOSTS

- Sam Schellhaas • Ann Roach
- Jon Schellhaas • Don Roach
- Paul Minter • Rev. Nancy Phillips
- Jennie Minter • Rev. David Phillips

### BAKERS & TREAT-BRINGERS

- Arlene Freeberg • Rev. Nancy Phillips
- Jeanine & Katya • Sam Schellhaas  
Miakotina



# Happy Birthday Valley Family!

Monique St. John

Evan Miller

Carolina Michael

Ryan Chancellor

Jack Halverson

Joel Larsen

Sara Perry

Larry Dunham

Miranda Graham

Lotti Matkovits

Sue Modert

Diane Shenk

Jessica Smith

Vicki Eklund

Gary Roback

Allison Wandmacher

Chuck Thurston

Everett Hagelin

Landon Goiffon

Megan Parks

Vonnie Olson

Mabel Willey

Mary Dunham

Larry Melander

Walter Messer

Jasmyn Swanson

Lisa Tracy

Hsu-hui Wang

Lyn Boyd

Mary Roback

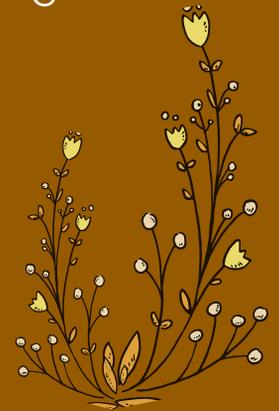
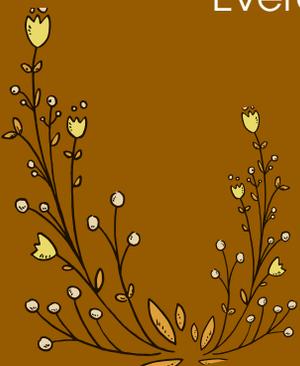
Madeline Wandmacher

Angela Zywicki

Janelle Carlson

Karen Chancellor

Brad Pleimling





# 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!