



Valley Community



Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent
Pageant Sunday

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger
Arr. Richard Huggins

Rachel Williams,
piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we begin this third week of Advent, focused on joy, may we remember what the angel said: "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy."

All: We welcome this good news with hopeful hearts.

One: God's joy is born of steadfast love, not circumstance.

All: Our joy comes from the Lord who is near.

One: The Spirit gathers us to praise and to be renewed.

All: We open our lives to God's joyful presence.

One: Come, let us worship the God who brings joy to the world.

All: With joy, we worship the Lord!

GATHERING MUSIC

Oh Holy Night
by Adolphe Adam

Matt Weiss,
guitar & vocals

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Hope, Peace, Joy

Bible Fellowship Group

ADVENT PRAYER

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 #97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

vss. 1 & 2

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We give thanks, O God, that you are unchanging and that your justice and mercy came to us in Jesus. We confess that we often hesitate to speak or act when others are turned away with "no room in the inn." As we prepare for your coming, forgive us for hearing the gospel without living it, for looking backward instead of following where you lead. Remind us that our hope was born in Bethlehem and that we are called to share that good news. Heal, restore, and bless us, 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

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God.

HEARING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

A Welcomed Stranger

ACT 1

SPECIAL MUSIC

The First Nowell (vss. 1 & 2)

Cast & Musicians

ACT 2

SPECIAL MUSIC

Away In the Manger #115 (vss. 1 & 2)

Matt Weiss

ACT 3

CAROL #147

The First Nowell (vss. 3 & 4)

Congregation

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

ACT 4

SPECIAL MUSIC

The First Nowell

Cast & Musicians

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Matt Weiss

ACT 5

SPECIAL MUSIC

Away in The Manger

Cast & Musicians

WELCOMED NEWS

Rev. Kyle Sandison

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Carol # 727

The Servant Song

(vss. 1, 2 & 6)

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

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.

OFFERTORY

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

Matt Weiss, vss. 1 & 2
Congregation, vss. 3 & 4

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

**Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.**

**Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

God of all good gifts, you give us the mercy and peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide. Help our lives to be an offering. Shape our work to be a gift of value like those that the magi brought to the manger. You are our Prophet, Priest and King and rule the world with justice, mercy and love. Gather all of us as your people and then send us out to serve in your name. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

(vss. 1 & 3)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night
Arr. Spencer Parsons

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

The Congregational Meeting will begin in a few minutes. Please remain seated.

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 14

Sponsored by Shirley and Mark Toering
In honor of family birthdays in December

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This pageant was written by Jeff Jones, a member of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul and producer at MPR. Jeff has shared his gifts with his congregation for nearly a decade, writing original scripts for their pageant each year. He has graciously shared his gifts with us this year.

Our story today is told from the perspective of Mary, a refugee who is seeking shelter for her family in Bethlehem; and a witness, a resident of Bethlehem who is unsure of the new people arriving. May this story open our hearts and minds as we welcome those who come to us as strangers.

Thank you to all of our pageant participants, leaders, and costume helpers. We are so proud of our children and we are filled with hope, seeing and hearing the Good News proclaimed through the eyes and mouths of our kids. We invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall following the congregational meeting today for treats, juice & coffee.

Cast:

Axel B.
Simon B.
Sully G.
Henry G.
Elsie G.
Everett H.
Iris H.
Aubrie L.
Jack L.
Lillie L.
Luc L.

Cast:

Rory M.
Walter M.
Katya M.
Chrisdel N.
Sindy N.
Grace P.
Jack P.
Mae R.
Miles R.
Sam R.
Arnold S.
Lilianna S.
Sam S.

Cast Support:

The Amazing Parents!
James Decker
Mariah Messer
Pete Messer
Natalie Pena-Gallegos
Hunter Sheldon
Sheila Sheldon

**ATTENTION
COOKIE BAKERS!**

Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 21

11:00 am

Community Room



Joys and Concerns

Dawn Hill asks for prayers as she undergoes a preventative hysterectomy scheduled for January 15. Prayers for a speedy recovery and words of encouragement are most welcome.

Arlene Freeberg asks for continued prayers for the Karwans, as ICE is in town and they are very fearful.

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:

Bev Collins has been discharged to Covenant Living rehab. Please pray for strength and healing. Phone calls and cards welcome, but please, no visitors for the time being.

Margie Deutsch spent a few days at North Memorial this week for further testing. She appreciates love and prayers from her Valley family.

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' first round of chemo went well and she is sleeping a lot.

Taichi Chen: <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 to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 14

Pageant Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Congregational Meeting

11:00 am Fellowship Hour

Monday, December 15

6:00 pm Officer Dinner

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

11:30 am Valley Men's Lunch

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 17

6:00 PM Joy of Recovery 12-Step

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

5:00 Indigenous Task Force Meeting

5:30 pm 12-Step Unity

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

Sunday, December 21

Music Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

11:00 am Cookie Exchange

4:30 pm Longest Night Service

5:15 pm Light Supper & Fellowship

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 Pena-Gallegos

Upper Elementary Sunday School 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

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 30: 220 (116 in-person)

December 7: 251 (127 in-person)

INTRODUCING PASTORAL CANDIDATE **KYLE SANDISON**

Kyle Sandison grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, attended Calvin University, then moved east to work at New City Kids, an after-school center in Jersey City, New Jersey. He then served at City Grace Church, a church plant in lower Manhattan, where he met his wife, Hanne.

After several years in New York, Hanne and Kyle moved to Boston so Hanne could attend law school while Kyle completed his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. After their first daughter, Elsie, was born, they decided to move to Minnesota to be closer to family (and the State Fair). They now have three children: Elsie (6) loves playing with friends, Arik (4) loves animals (especially giraffes), and Ingrid (1) just learned to walk(!). Kyle enjoys music, reading, coffee, and having his hopes raised and dashed by his favorite Minnesota sports teams.

Since graduating from seminary, Kyle has served in various ministry settings in New Jersey, Louisiana, and Minnesota, in roles ranging from Director of Worship to Lead Pastor. Through these experiences he's discovered a passion for helping build strong and deep relationships within the church and surrounding community.

Kyle sees the church as God's beloved community: "It's the community in which we're beloved by God, cherished by one another, and invited to share God's love with the world around us." For Kyle, this means the church is a place of welcome and belonging, a community that seeks justice and works for the flourishing of all people, and lives into the hope and joy that God is renewing all things. What excites him most about pastoral ministry is walking with people in their faith journey, helping people encounter God's beauty and mystery, and watching a community grow deeper together in our identity as God's beloved.

Kyle and his family are thrilled about the opportunity to call Valley their home church, and they look forward to meeting everyone and getting to be a part of the community.





2025 Poinsettia



Roger Michael	In memory of Marian Michael
Greg & Mary Rom	In memory of Michael Hnatko, Betty Hicks Ray & Barbara Rom, and Paul Hicks
Ben Kummer	In memory of Lisa Kummer
Jan & Joe Sacco	In memory of Jack & Carol Rock and Tom & Jean Sacco
Barb & Tom Wasmoen	In honor of Pat & Joan Ingmand
Jim & Diane Cook	In honor of the Friendship Group: Barb, Bobby, & Jeremy In gratitude of the Cochrane Connection - Thanks, Jim!
Rachel & Brian Hole	In memory of Rachel's father, Rev. Howard Skulstad, her Aunt Sue Engel, Brian's brother Tyler Hole, and his Grandpa Bob Kreutzian
Tim & Becky Grosshuesch	In memory of Grandma Maggie Grosshuesch & Gamma Betty Allabough
Valerie Robinson	In honor of our family
Mary & Larry Dunham	In memory of Dale Dunham, Janet Fox, Kenny Fox, Ray Fox & Terry Fox
Katie Decker	In memory of my brother, Carl
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 thanks of family, friends and loved ones
Peggy Neibling	In memory of Betty Brooking
Len Biggs and Jennifer Biggs	In memory of Janet Biggs
Dave & Helen Dechaine	In honor of our 4 wonderful grandchildren



2025 Poinsettia



Bonnie & Chuck Ulmer

In honor of our grandchildren

Mandy Lund

In memory of Donovan, Jeff Lund, and Julie Lund

Kelsie & Kevin Hagelin

In honor of Great Grandma Irene

Margie Deutsch

In memory of Manfred Deutsch

Jeanine Miakotina

In memory of my grandparents, Robert & Maymie Peters

Mary Ann Winter

In honor of our grandchildren,
Logan, Maeve, Quinn, Kyra & Annika Winter

Jim & Lisa Tarbell

In memory of Sherrill Mixer and Jim Tarbell Sr.

Jill Reiswig

In loving memory of Myrle Reiswig

Les & Arlene Freeberg

In honor of our grandchildren

Becky Brooking

In memory of Betty Brooking and Robert & Shirley Brooking

Betsy Nichols

In memory of Doug & Trudy Nichols

Gwyn Lang

In honor of my family

Jim Parks

In memory of Karla Parks, Delbert & Lorraine Parks,
and Melbert & Shirley Holzer

Mark & Shirley Toering

In honor of our grandchildren

David & Nancy Phillips

In memory of Nancy's cousin, Tom Vis

Ruth Wilterding

In loving memory of Aron, JoAnna & Mark Wilterding

Kerrie Deef

In memory of grandparents, Marguerite & Robert Siegler and
my in-laws Marjorie & John Deef

Lynn Thier

In memory of my father, Lloyd Pedersen,
my sister, Kristy Oakle, and my grandfather, George Spencer

Roger Graphenteen

In memory of parents, Palmer & Dorothy and
daughter, Allyson Rose



2025 Poinsettia



Brad & Sharon Pleimling

In honor of peace to all the world

Bonnie & Terry Goslinga

In honor of Jessica, Rachel, Ryan, Autumn, and Wayne

The Malecha Family

In memory of Marilyn Eckerle

Susie Potter

In memory of Jan and George Potter

Mary Wilkens

In loving memory of my husband Jerry Wilkens and our parents,
Howard & Gertrude Jilgard and Corny & Vera Wilkens

Bob Tripet

In memory of my mom and dad

Gwen Rouleau Family

In loving memory of our parents and grandparents

Pete & Mariah Messer

In loving memory of our grandparents
In honor of Rory & Walter and their Great Nana Bobbi

Karen Harms

In honor of my loving family and In honor of Valley



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
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 30!**

A THANK YOU BRUNCH FOR PASTOR JIM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us for a potluck brunch following worship on December 28th (Jim's Last Sunday) to celebrate Pastor Jim's time with us at Valley and his dedicated care and leadership of our community.

RSVPs are not necessary, but please sign up if you would like to bring something to contribute to the potluck!

Sign up for a potluck item in the Fellowship Hall,
scan the QR code, or click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA8A92DA1F58-60935113-thank>



Valley will now be a recurring Memorial Blood Centers donation site!

Mark your calendars for the following dates and spread the word!

January 4th, 2026

March 8th, 2026

May 10th, 2026

July 12th, 2026

September 6th, 2026

November 8th, 2026

VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
DONATING BLOOD AT VALLEY?

Sunday
January 4, 2026
12:00 - 4:00 PM

Scan to Register for 1/4/26



Advent in the Valley



ADVENT 2025 SCHEDULE

- Sunday, 12/14 | **9:30 AM** **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Christmas Pageant (during worship)
- Sunday, 12/21 | **9:15 AM** **4th Sunday of Advent | Christmas Music Sunday**
| **11:00 AM** Christmas Cookie Exchange
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Katie Decker
- | **4:30 PM** **Longest Night Service**

Christmas Eve Services

LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

- 4:30 PM | Christmas Eve Family Service
(music starts at 4:15 pm)
- 9:30 PM | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with communion



Happy Birthday Valley Family!

John Chancellor
Madeline Lund
Andy Wandmacher
Marisol Freeberg
Betsy Malecha
Aubrey Soens
Brian Parks
Leigh Gautsche
Terry Goslinga
Jill Reiswig
Stephanie Toering-Peters
David Hole
Leo Kummer
Andrew Pitan
Emi Chen
Melinda Marshall
Sydney Kara
Jennifer Malecha
Nikii Minter
Sydney Kara
Jim Tarbell
Sarah Willey
Eda Inman

Rev. David Phillips
William Chancellor
Kurt Modert
Pam Magill
Mary Rom
Marjorie Deutsch
Sheila Sheldon
Michael Craven
Rory Messer
Sharon Pleimling
Ellen Vannucci
Virginia Day
Rick Morisette
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!