



Valley Community



Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still,
arr. Cathy Moglebust

Valley Handbells

O Little Town of Bethlehem
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord will give you a sign, says Isaiah.

All: Look, the young woman is with child.

One: She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel:

All: God is with us.

One: Come, all you faithful,

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

One: Let us worship God!

GATHERING MUSIC

Fum, Fum, Fum
arr. Carolyn Jennings

Valley Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

Valley Music Groups

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear God, you come to make yourself known to us in a loving relationship. You come with a message of peace and comfort for all of us who are worried and tired. As you did on that first Christmas eve, be with us again today so we can learn about your message of love from you and from one another. In the name of your Child, Jesus Christ who lived among us. Amen.

† Hymn #110

Love Has Come

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiveness, but also our refusal to forgive our neighbors. In this Advent time, forgive our failures to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, help us receive you with amazement like the shepherds, with joy like Mary, and with love as you have loved us. Come, Lord Jesus, come! 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.

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

HEARING THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shepherds, Run Along
(Przybieżeli do Betlejem pasterze)
Trad Polish carol, setting by Stephen Mager

Valley Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

Do Not Be Afraid

Rev. Jim Cochrane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

I Will Give My Heart

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter
Gustav Holst, arr. Karen Buckwalter

Valley Handbells
Valley Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, your love compels us to give because you gave. We give to our loved ones, to our neighbors, to people we will never know, and to our church. We trust you will give us the wisdom to use these offerings to grow seeds of love in the world. Show us how best to steward the resources you have so graciously given us. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #105

People, Look East

vss. 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.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Forth into the World
John Rutter

Valley Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Sing We Now of Christmas
arr. Kevin McChesney

Valley Handbells

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 21

Sponsored by Peggy Neibling
*In loving memory of Joanne Neibling
and Paul Neibling*

Sign up for Chancel flowers in Fellowship Hall.

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Dave McCunn** and family, as **Diane** passed away on Saturday, December 13. A service is being planned for spring 2026.

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 is stopping cancer treatment and beginning hospice care this week. Prayers of comfort are appreciated.

Doug Smith is receiving hospice care at home.

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

Karen Harms recently had her second chemo treatment last week and appreciates prayers from her Valley family.

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 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

Monday, December 22

Sheila's Birthday

7:00 pm 12-Step Meeting

Tuesday, December 23

6:30 Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 24

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

6:00 pm Joy of Recovery OA Group

9:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25

Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

Sunday, December 28

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

The entire Valley Community!

Transitional Pastor

Head of Staff

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon, CRE

Office Administrator

Rachel Hole

Communications Director

Mariah Messer

Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

Sunshine Room Leader

Natalie Pena-Gallegos

Upper Elementary Sunday School Leader

Jamese 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

December 7: 251 (127 in-person)

December 14: 367 (195 in-person)



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

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 21ST, 4:30 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 **Sunday, December 21st at 4:30pm.**

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.

A light meal and time for fellowship will follow in the Cornerstone Room.





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!

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



Two Christmas Offering Opportunities

Valley's Christmas Offering will be split between our mission partners **PRISM** and **Every Meal**. Our gifts at this time are critical for many, and we are grateful that the Valley family always responds with generosity! Checks should include "VCPC Christmas Offering" in the memo line, or you can use our online giving platform and select "Christmas Offering."

The PC(USA)'s Christmas Joy Offering is a denomination-wide undertaking that supports retired clergy and their families, as well as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) folks pursuing educational opportunities. Those who receive offering boxes from Valley can find a designated envelope for this offering. Checks sent to Valley should include "PCUSA Christmas Joy" in the memo line, or you can use our online giving platform and select "Christmas Joy."

Click [HERE](#) to give online or scan the QR code!



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>



2026 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 maybe another member's box who lives near you)!

**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

Scan to Register for 1/4/26



**VALLEY
COMMUNITY
BLOOD DRIVE**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
DONATING BLOOD AT VALLEY?

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

 Valley Community

Valley Craft & Connect

Craft & Connect is for anyone who enjoys a day crafting, working on a puzzle, chatting with friends or even just reading a book.

Catch up on a project, start something new or come see what others are working on for inspiration! Craft supplies, puzzles & cribbage boards will be available. Come for the fellowship and stay for the fun!

Kids welcome: if you sign up in advance, Rachel will make sure there is something for kids to do!

***Optional:** Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM. If you're unable to bring anything, please don't let it keep you away!



SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026
10 AM - 2:00 PM



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026: MLK JR. DAY



8-12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

6440 Wilryan Ave
Edina, MN 55439

Contact **Andrew Pitan** or
Valley for sign-up instructions.

4 VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED TO PROVIDE & DELIVER LUNCH TO THE WORK CREW AROUND NOON



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!