THE VALLEY

ADVENT 2026 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS• OPEN MINDS• OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422

763-588-0831
Pastoral Care: 763-445-9665
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Cover Photo: On Sunday, November 15, 2026 we welcomed new members, a new parish associate and celebrated five baptisms!

A Quick Note from the Office:

Hello, Valley Family!

What a wonderful fall season it has been! We closed it out in joy on November 15, welcoming five new members and celebrating five baptisms. Thanks be to God!

Now we turn toward Advent, and we have so much to look forward to. This will be Pastor Kyle's first Christmas at Valley, and we can't wait for him to experience the love and warmth we have always known here. We hope you'll join us for the many ways we'll be celebrating together.

A few things to put on your calendar:

- **Christmas dinner:** Please sign up by 11/25. If cost is a concern, please talk with Sheila. We want everyone at the table, and cost should never stand in the way.
- **Poinsettia orders:** Please get your orders to Rachel by 11/30.
- **Snow Camp:** We're hoping to send a group of Valley youth in grades 3-12 this year, and Pastor Kyle is eager to see Snow Camp in action. If you're considering it, talk with Sheila about a promo code to help with registration costs, and let us know when your youth are signed up!

With gratitude and joy,
Sheila

Community News

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**
  - **Valley Thanksgiving Potluck | Thursday, November 26 | 12:00 pm (page 3, 5)**
    - Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, **Click Here** or call the Valley Office
  - **Valley Office will be closed on November 26 and 27 in observation of Thanksgiving**
  - **Sponsor a Poinsettia for the Poinsettia Tree! (page 8**
    - $13 each, forms in Fellowship Hall or Call the church office at 763-588-0831
  - Advent in the Valley begins on Sunday, November 29 (see page 8 for all the details!)
  - **Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 6 during Worship at 9:30 AM (pages 7, 8)**
    - Rehearsals Sun. 11/29 at 11 AM and Sat. 12/5 at 4:30 PM
  - **Valley Christmas Dinner | Sunday, December 6 | 5:30 PM (page 3)**
    - **Catered Meal - $20/adult, $10 Kids (10 & under)**
    - **Reserve your tickets here: https://forms.gle/R4pHjymVPu1MunxX9**
    - RSVP by 11/25 in the Fellowship Hall or call the Valley Office
  - **FITV Concert | Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 PM** | Above Average Tuba Quartet
  - **Cookie Exchange | Sunday, December 20th after worship** | Sign up in Fellowship Hall (page 7)
  - **Longest Night Service| Sunday, December 20th at 4:30 PM (page 7)**
    - A light soup/salad supper will follow the service.
  - **Christmas Eve Services - December 24th (page 9)**
    - **4:30 PM Family Service | 9:30 PM Candlelight Service with Communion**
  - **Christmas Carol Sing with organist Jane Nienaber** | Sunday, December 27th at 9:30 AM
    - This special worship service will feature a time to sing your favorite carols of the season.

- **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **There are many ways to serve our community this Advent season!**
    - **It's time to start bringing in toys for the PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe! (pages 5, 7, 9)**
    - The Julie Tree will be up beginning on November 22.
  - **Holiday Toy Shoppe Volunteers Needed | Saturday, December 12 (page 5)**
    - **Sign-up in Fellowship Hall or Click Here!**
  - NEEDED Meals on Wheels Drivers call the Church Office if you can volunteer.
  - **Alternative Gift Catalog! (page 9) Click Here to see the catalog**
    - Find a special gift for the person who needs nothing and help someone in the community.
  - **Sign up to join the Karwan Family Support Crew! Look for the sheet in Fellowship Hall**
    - This is a special list of VCPC folks who have special skills, home care recommendations or time to help with rides to appointments.
  - **Habitat for Humanity Day is Monday, January 18th in Shoreview** - Lunch is provided
    - Only 3 spots left! Look for the sign up in Fellowship Hall

Don't Miss Out - Sign Up Today!

You're Invited!

to Valley's Thanksgiving Potluck

Thursday, Nov. 26th at 12:00 PM

Sign up in Fellowship Hall, Scan the QR Code or call the office.

We are hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck for those looking for a place to gather for the holiday. Come to Valley, share a delicious meal & gratitude for our Valley family. There is a sheet in Fellowship Hall to sign up for what you will bring and how many from your family will be joining you.

POINSETTIA SALE

Sponsor a poinsettia to help complete our poinsettia tree!

Order forms in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. Plants are **$13 each.**

ORDER BY NOV. 30

Join Us!

CHRISTMAS DINNER
SUNDAY, DEC. 6
5:30 PM

Scan the QR Code to Reserve Your Seat

Join us on **December 6 at 5:30 p.m.** for our annual Christmas dinner and holiday music performance by Above Average Tuba Quartet!

Reserve your tickets by November 25th!

MENU: DINNER WILL BE CATERED!

- Fresh baked rolls with butter
- Field greens berry salad with Feta
- Roasted root vegetables
- Au gratin potatoes
- Holiday Baked Ham/Pineapple Sauce
- Oven roasted chicken w/garlic parmesan sauce

VEGETARIAN AND KIDS MEALS AVAILABLE

TICKETS:
$20 FOR ADULTS
$10 FOR KIDS
(10 & UNDER)

Valley Connects- November 2026

NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISMS








YOUTH & TEAMS FAMILY BOWLING!





Valley Craft & Connect



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

Come catch up on a project, start something new or come see what others are working on for inspiration!

Crafting isn't your thing? That's okay! Come for the low-key fellowship - get to know Valley friends while working on a puzzle or playing a game or two.

Bring a dish to share for lunch at 12 PM.

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2026
10 AM - 2 PM
LUNCH AT 12 PM

You're Invited!

To Valley's Thanksgiving Potluck

Thursday, Nov. 26th at 12:00 PM

We are hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck for those looking for a place to gather for the holiday. Come to Valley, share a delicious meal & gratitude for our Valley family. There is a sheet in Fellowship Hall to sign up for what you will bring and how many from your family will be joining you.

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CALL THE OFFICE.

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 29 following worship

'TIS THE SEASON TO DECORATE OUR VALLEY!

Fridays in the Valley Presents:



ABOVE AVERAGE TUBA QUARTET

Sunday, December 6, 2026 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
PRISM HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE

Valley Community

PRISM 2026 HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over 30 Volunteers needed!
Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!

SIGN UP BELOW TO VOLUNTEER DURING THE HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE OR TO BE A VALLEY HOST AT THE HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

Valley Connects- November 2026

BRIDGING DRESSER BUILD











STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



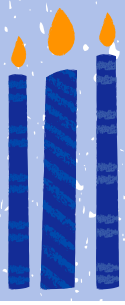


Seeing the faces of Valley's youngest members and their families makes the Advent season truly special. Please reach out to Sheila if you are able to donate your time and talents.

LITTLE CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED

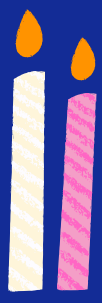
If you and your family would be interested in reading the dedication and lighting a candle during an Advent worship service please contact Sheila at **Sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net**

Lighting the Advent candles is a great way to get our youngest members involved in worship.



2026 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The VCPC 2026 Christmas Pageant will debut on Sunday, December 6th during worship!



We are looking forward to getting Valley kids of all ages involved this year again! If you know your family would like to participate, please email Sheila at **Sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net**

PRISM 2026 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
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- $25 GIFT CARDS (TARGET, AMAZON, VISA, ETC.)
- NERF TOYS
- LEGOS
- GAMES

DROP OFF GIFTS AT VALLEY BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

Cookie Exchange



Sunday, December 20
11:00 am
Community Room



Bake 4+ dozen of your favorite cookie(s) and bring them to the Community Room for the big swap!

Mark your calendar now - keep an eye out for sign-up information coming soon.

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 **Sunday, December 20th at 4:30pm**. A light meal will follow in the Cornerstone Room.

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.



- LOOKING AHEAD - FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY

Friday, January 8 | 7:00 pm
Bernstein Chamber Players
(Sue Ruby & friends)

Friday, February 12, 2027 @ 7 PM
Songs in the Key of Love

Friday, March 12, 2027 @ 7 PM
Metro Brass Quintet

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Valley Community

ADVENT 2026 SCHEDULE

Sunday, Nov. 29	**9:30 AM**	**1st Sunday of Advent | *Hanging of the Greens***
Sunday, Dec. 6	**9:30 AM**	**2nd Sunday of Advent |Worship with Communion**
	9:30 AM	**Christmas Pageant** (during worship)
	5:30 PM	**Christmas Dinner**
	7:00 PM	**FITV Concert - Above Average Tuba Quartet**
Sunday, Dec. 13	**9:30 AM**	**3rd Sunday of Advent**
Sunday, Dec. 20	**9:15 AM**	**4th Sunday of Advent | Worship | Music Sunday**
	11:00 AM	**Christmas Cookie Exchange -** Sign up in Fellowship Hall
	4:30 PM	**Longest Night Service** (A light meal will follow.)
Thursday, Dec. 24	**4:30 PM**	**Christmas Eve Family Service** (music starts at 4:15 pm)
	9:30 PM	**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion**

POINSETTIAS

We need your help to decorate the Sanctuary with our beloved Poinsettia Tree! Poinsettias cost $13 each. Order a plant for the tree or designate that your plant be given to a homebound Valley member. You may take your plant home after the 9:30 PM Christmas Eve Service. **All orders are due by Monday November 30th.** Order forms are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, or call the church office to order.

2026 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The VCPC 2026 Christmas Pageant will debut on Sunday, December 6th during worship! Join us for worship on **Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 AM** to see our Valley kids and youth tell the Christmas Story as only kids can. We are looking forward to getting Valley kids of all ages involved this year again! There are speaking and non-speaking parts, so all ages and skill-levels are welcome. Please email Sheila at **Sheila.sheldon@valleychurch.net** if you have any questions. **Cast rehearsals Sun. 11/29 at 11:00 AM & Sat. 12/5 at 4:30 PM**

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 **Sunday, December 20th at 4:30pm, followed by a light meal in the Cornerstone room**.
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.



Advent in the Valley

Christmas Services

LIVE-STREAM & IN-PERSON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2026

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. While you are doing your holiday shopping, please keep PRISM kids in mind! Here's a list of popular gifts:

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

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.

Valley Education Corner

Faith Formation: Sunday School for kids ages 4-3rd grade happens each week. Volunteers are in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings to lead Sunday School activities. We are still in need of helpers so please consider lending a hand. Sign up in Fellowship Hall to be a Sunday School Helper!

Nursery Care: Valley volunteers provide nursery care for kids ages 3 and under each week. Volunteers welcome, sign up in Fellowship Hall.

TEAMS and YOUTH Group: TEAMS & Youth Group will wrap up for 2026 on November 29th and will return from Winter Break on **Sunday, January 3rd from 5:00 - 6:30 PM.** All are encouraged to **sign up for Snow Camp.** Contact Sheila for a **PROMO code to save on registration.**

On Sunday, Nov. 8th **Valley Youth** and their leaders packed **100 Holiday food bags** for PRISM at the New Hope Hy-Vee before encouraging shoppers to purchase the $20 bags. In total they collected over **1,490 pounds of food for PRISM** that day! PRISM said it was the most successful grocery store pop up in 2026, Way to Go Valley Youth!





Calling All Youth Grades 3-12!

Clearwater Forest

WINTER CAMP ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Snow Camp

"Chill & Be Still"

JANUARY 8–10

Let your kids turn winter into an unforgettable experience!

Snow Camp is packed with outdoor games, creative activities, and learning about God!

www.clearwaterforest.org

$175/camper

Adults and families welcome!

SAFE · FUN · FAITH FORMING

Limited spots available. Register today!

Scan here to Register

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, November 29 - Hanging of the Greens
First Sunday of Advent
9:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 1
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 2
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 4
3:00 pm Taichi Chen Memorial Service

Sunday, December 6 - Christmas Pageant
Second Sunday of Advent
9:30 am Worship Service
5:30 pm Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Monday, December 7
11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50s Grill

Tuesday, December 8
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 9
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 12
All Day - PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe

Sunday, December 13
Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Fellowship
11:00 am Adult Ed - Funeral Planning with Sheila

Monday, December 14
5:30 pm Officer Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 15
11:30 am Men's Lunch @ 50s Grill
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 16
7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 17
10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, December 20 - Music Sunday
Fourth Sunday in Advent
9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Fellowship
11:00 am Cookie Exchange
4:30 pm Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 22
1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
6:30 pm Bell Choir Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 23
6:00 pm Choir Christmas Party

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
4:30 Christmas Eve Family Service
9:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Office Closed

Sunday, December 27 - Christmas Hymn Sunday
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship

Monday, December 28
Office Closed - Christmas Eve Observed

Wednesday, December 30
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



John Chancellor
Madeline Lund
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
Jim Tarbell
Sarah Willey
Eda Inman
Rev. David Phillips
William Chancellor
Kurt Modert
Pam Magill
Melissa Novy
Mary Rom
Sheila Sheldon
Michael Craven
Rory Messer
Sharon Pleimling
Ellen Vannucci
Virginia Day
Rick Morisette
Cynthia Malinowski
Beverly Mattin
Evan Jurgensen
Chuck Ulmer
Dave McCunn
Theo Morrow
Sara Schiebout
Carrie Priem

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.

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422

763-588-0831
Pastoral Care: 763-445-9665
www.valleychurch.net
office@valleychurch.net

Scan to give online