

# QUICK LOOK

# VALLEY OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH VOICE

May 2024

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

LIVING IN GOD'S LOVE &  
COMPASSION,

WE ARE CALLED  
AND SENT BY GOD TO BE  
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST,

AS THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS  
THROUGH US FOR  
HEALING, JUSTICE, & PEACE.







# GET IN TOUCH

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*Staff & Leadership*

*About Valley of Peace*

# A Word From Pastor Ashley Osborn

When you think of the Holy Spirit, what images do you think of?  
Fire? Wind? Dove? Still, small voice? Water? Holy Ghost?

There are so many words and ways that we describe the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We give thanks for the Spirit that calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies. This is the Spirit that opens our hearts to faith, gives us the gifts of God, and calls us into community with one another.

Fifty Days after Easter the Christian Church celebrates the movement of the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, where we remember the story of the Spirit moving through the lives of the early church and drawing them into a diverse and faithful community.

This year Pentecost Sunday is on Sunday, May 19, the same day as our Congregational Annual Meeting.

What a joy to give thanks for the movement of the Spirit throughout Scripture and in our lives still today.

This year for Pentecost Sunday, May 19, you are invited to do the following things:

- Wear something red to worship as we celebrate the movement of the Spirit describes as fire.
- Bring your baptismal candle to worship as we remember the gifts God gave us in the waters of baptism (if you do not have one or cannot find yours, one will be provided).
- And come ready to receive and celebrate as we hear stories of the Spirit moving in the lives of our staff members, leaders, and whole church.

I look forward to celebrating the diverse and transforming work of the Spirit with all of you!

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Ashley

## Treasurer's Report

For the month of March, we ended with a \$4,115 bringing the year-to-date deficit to \$14,243. The March deficit is a result of timing of insurance payment, but does not actually reflect expense in the excess of budget.

	January Results	YTD Results
Revenue	\$ 31,890	\$ 92,790
Expenses	<u>\$36,005</u>	<u>\$107,033</u>
	\$( 4,115)	\$(14,243)

Joe Thom, Treasurer

## Farewell Green Table

When one chapter ends, another begins.

As we move forward with our new kitchen plans which includes a serving area, we say goodbye to the green table.

Our beloved green table will be finding a new home at a local middle school in the coming weeks.



## A Note from the AGCLC Board

Open invitation to all Valley of Peace members to volunteer to serve on the All God's Children Board. Having done this twice I can attest that your input is not only needed but it is valued as well.

The Board meets every second Tuesday from 7-8:30pm on Zoom and for the most part that is the extent of the time commitment they are needing. VoP and AGC have a long history of working well together and Pastor Ashley and AGC Director Anna are trying to enhance this relationship so now is an exciting time to join the board.

As a board member your personal and professional experiences make all the difference as we try to assist Anna in creating and utilizing best practices. No experience is necessary but you will come away with great understandings. Several of us are coming of our three year commitment so it is necessary to find replacements. Please ask Kelsey, in the church office, for an application or to ask more questions.

Thanks all.  
Jim Jasper



## Gerten's Delivery

AGCLC is looking for volunteers to help sort and organize flowers.

Gerten's will be delivering 287 plants on May 14.

Their drop off window is 8 am - 12 pm, but will give a one hour window on the morning of May 14.

If you are able to volunteer, please let Kelsey Pierson at [office@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:office@valleyofpeace.org) know.

Thank you!

## Noble School Volunteer

Hello Valley of Peace Community,  
We have our Spring Carnival coming up on 5/17, and would love to see if there are any Valley of Peace members that would be interested in attending and volunteering.

Scan the QR Code for information and volunteer sign up form below:



Thank you!  
Lori Akin, Noble PTA

## Question or Two & a Brew

Join us for a Question or Two on Saturday, May 18 at 4:30 pm.

We will meet at Luce Line Brewing at 12901 16th Ave. N. Plymouth, MN 55441



## A Note From AGCLC

As we look ahead to our Spring and Summer planning for All God's Children Learning Center, we are focusing on fostering a stronger sense of community and involvement within AGCLC. We are excited to begin offering more volunteer opportunities at our center. We believe that by coming together as a community, we can enhance the educational experience for our children and deepen connections with one another as well as our connections between AGCLC and VOP.

Volunteering at AGCLC is all about building bridges and having fun while doing it! There are many opportunities to be involved from reading stories, gardening with our preschoolers, setting up events, or rocking our littlest babies.

If you are interested, please follow this link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQdWvkOpAwrJo98ChruHsiJzNGni7iOES-qPfze23k2itWew/viewform> or reach out with questions!

Anna Pearson  
Director of AGCLC

## Thank You!

Thanks to all who attended our Palm Sunday Brunch and who contributed so generously!

We were able to give over \$250 to PRISM, to benefit their food shelf!

Valley of Peace shines again!

## Summer Volunteering

We're trying something new for volunteering sign up this summer at VOP! Click below to go to our summer volunteer schedule sign up.

We currently have many openings- so please take a look at what works for you!

Any questions, email Kelsey Pierson at [office@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:office@valleyofpeace.org). Thank you for volunteering!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949A8A62AAoFCC25-49I459I2-vopsummer#/>

## Golden Valley PRIDE

Valley of Peace will again have a booth at the Golden Valley Pride festival! The event is on June 8th from 12-6 pm.

We are looking for the following items and volunteers:

- 10' x 10' tent and tent weights
- Setup volunteers (11am - 12pm)
- Cleanup Volunteers (6-7 pm)
- Booth Volunteers (any amount of time between 12 and 6)

Please contact Kari Roll ([Kari.rollmn@gmail.com](mailto:Kari.rollmn@gmail.com)) if you are available to help or have any questions!



## Upcoming Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the Valley of Peace Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, May 19.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear congregational updates and elect new leaders.

There is an Annual Report with updates from leaders in the church and this will be available on Sunday, May 12.

You can attend the Annual Meeting physically in the sanctuary or digitally using Zoom. Zoom Information is on the Calendar of Activities on the Valley of Peace website.



## Summer Worship

Our Summer Worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 26.

On Sunday, May 26 we will begin worshipping at 9:30 am and will worship every Sunday at 9:30 am during the summer.

## A Note from Wes

As a member of Valley of Peace, I really appreciate the work of the staff. As a retired pastor, I especially appreciate the fact that pastor Ashley is my pastor. Not all pastors are the same and sorry to say not all pastors are good pastors.

But Pastor Ashley is a good pastor.

If you think like me, please send a note of appreciation to Pastor Ashley and relate why you appreciate her. We all need encouragement and ministry is often a hard load to bear.

Wes Syverson

## Taste of the Burbs

# SAVE THE DATE FOR PRISM'S ANNUAL

*This event offers two venues: The Metropolitan Ballroom and Clubroom and Frankies Chicago Style Restaurant.*

**METROPOLITAN**  
BALLROOM & CLUBROOM  
5418 Wayzata Blvd,  
Golden Valley, MN 55416

Ticket Information:

- April 1st-14th: \$125
- April 15th: \$150
- VIP TICKET: \$225

*includes VIP reception, exclusive seating, the first choice of parking, and fundraising activities.*



**FRANKIE'S**

3556 Winnetka Ave N,  
New Hope, MN 55427

Ticket Information:

- April 1st-14th: \$60
- April 15th: \$75

**UIP RECEPTION: 5:30PM**

**GENERAL GUESTS: 6:15PM**

**THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [PRISMMPLS.ORG/EVENTS/TOB24](https://prismmpls.org/events/tob24)**

# Adult Faith Formation

Welcome to Adult Faith Formation in the Fireside Room.  
Join us weekly at 9:00 in person or via Zoom!

Meeting ID: 862 7384 8274

Passcode: 081443

## May 5: *Manna & Mercy, with Laurie Eaton*

Manna and Mercy is a 100-page hand-printed paraphrase of the bible, from Genesis to Revelation -- a graphic novel of sorts, written with imagination, clarity, humor, and cartoons. Built around the twin themes of food sharing and forgiveness, it helps us to look at scripture with new eyes and rediscover how it can become a means of life and grace rather than destruction and death. Come join us for Part 1!

## May 12: *Manna & Mercy, with Ruth Larson*

Manna and Mercy is a 100-page hand-printed paraphrase of the bible, from Genesis to Revelation -- a graphic novel of sorts, written with imagination, clarity, humor, and cartoons. Built around the twin themes of food sharing and forgiveness, it helps us to look at scripture with new eyes and rediscover how it can become a means of life and grace rather than destruction and death. Come join us for Part 2!

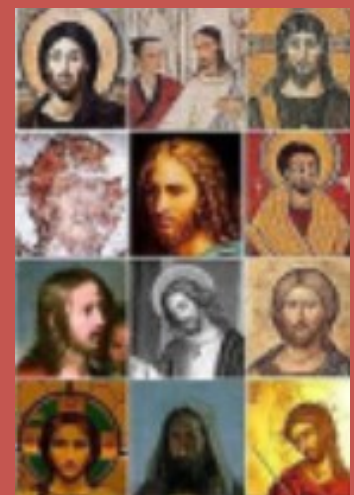
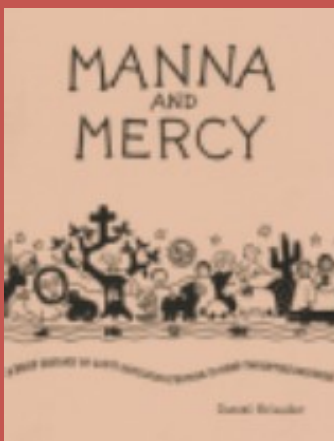
## May 19: *Exploration of a Global Jesus*

Join us on May 19 at 9:00 to celebrate the world of Christian art, with depictions of Jesus from around the world. Throughout history, artists of many ethnicities and cultures have shown us the suffering, as well as the love and hope of Jesus, in their images, which transcend culture and have the ability to expand our understanding of God. Come and see a Savior that represents all people (and maybe learn a few secrets about DaVinci and Lucrezia Borgia)! Barb Mikelson, docent at MIA, will be presenting!

## May 26: *Memorial Weekend*

No Adult Faith Formation. See you in the fall!

Come join us at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room or on Zoom!  
The coffee will be on!





# Children, Youth & Family Announcements

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## Family Camp Registration Information!

Valley of Peace is hosting a Family Camp on July 18th-21st this summer at Wilderness Canoe Base in Grand Marais! Space is limited to the first five families who register, so register now by going to this Registration Link. Pace will be leading the retreat. The pricing breakdown is as follows:

Adult (18 and older): \$330

Youth (11-17): \$300

Child (3-10): \$270

Household maximum cost: \$1,200

Wilderness Canoe Base is a site managed by Camp Wapo. There are plenty of fun activities from swimming to canoeing (it's in the name after all), nature trails and hiking. This will be a super fun experience. Reach out to Pace ([cyf@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:cyf@valleyofpeace.org)) if you have any questions.

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## VBS Registration Now Open

The date for Vacation Bible School! Vacation Bible School will be held August 11th through 15th (Sunday through Thursday) from 6-8:30pm. Vacation Bible School will be held at Elim Lutheran Church this year (3987 West Broadway; Robbinsdale, MN 55422). Registration will open May 1st.

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## Calling All Chili Chefs!

Valley of Peace's returning annual chili cook off is May 5th following the worship service in the fellowship hall! Youth will be helping to staff the event but we need chefs to bring their crockpots or other serving dishes full of their favorite delicious chili recipe. Funds raised from this event will go toward the youth of Valley of Peace and help send three of our youth to the National Youth Gathering.

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## Envelope Fundraiser

You may notice envelopes appearing in the narthex (space outside of the sanctuary) with dollar amounts on them on May 5th. This is part of a fundraiser for the youth of Valley of Peace. The dollar amounts go from \$1 to \$150, take as many or as few envelopes as your family would like then return them with the donated dollar amount inside. These will be up all month long, so please consider taking one, two, or many envelopes to donate to the youth fund. Funds raised from this event will go toward the youth of Valley of Peace and help send three of our youth to the National Youth Gathering.

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## Children's Faith Formation Party

The last day of Children's Faith Formation will be Sunday, May 12th at 9:30am!  
We will have our end of the year party full of fun and games!

## A Note from Pace

This past Sunday, from when I am writing this the early morning of April 30th coffee in hand, Valley of Peace celebrated with Declan, Leo, and Max their Third Grade Bible Milestone. Each third grader received a Bible, some stickers and highlighters and other fun things, and then were prayed over in worship during the Children's Faith Moment. I told the third graders when we met before worship that the Bible Milestone is probably my favorite milestone that we celebrate in the life of the church. I just love giving people a Bible, talking about how the Bible is the Word of God, and then equipping them with the tools to read and engage with the Bible on their own and also in community.

I am a Luther scholar, and to be a Luther scholar more than having to be familiar with Latin and German, more than having read his reforming works like *The 95 Theses* or *Freedom of a Christian*, one needs to first and foremost read the Bible. One of Martin Luther's most outstanding claims when he initiated his reforming movement of the church was that the Bible should be both the starting point and the norm for our tradition. Luther said, for instance, "The Scriptures are the cradle (or manger) in which the Christ lies" and "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it takes hold of me... an ordinary person armed with Scripture is to be believed above a pope or a cardinal without it." The Bible is a big deal to Luther and to Lutherans.

But given our contemporary society where there are Christians who use the Bible as a source for harmful views about creation, about the LGBTQIA+ community, or who use the Bible as a textbook from which the sciences are to be judged and normed, who claim that "any Bible believing Christian" would be on their side on these issues, it is important to clarify just what Lutherans mean when we say the Bible is central to our faith.

To any Lutheran I encounter who wants guidance on what we believe about the Bible, I recommend the book *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* by Diane Jacobson, Mark Allan Powell, and Stanley N. Olson. It's short, around 100 pages, but it contains a wealth of information. But to put it simply and to answer the questions I most commonly get about the Bible and Lutheran's relationship to it, especially compared to the array of other denominations and the "Bible believing" Christians who claim Lutherans aren't Bible believing enough, here are a few things I usually say Lutherans believe about the Bible.

First, when asked if we read the Bible literally, I go to this quote from *Opening the Book of Faith*: "I believe the literal parts literally. And I believe the metaphorical parts metaphorically. When the Bible says, 'The Lord is my Shepherd' (Psalm 23) I believe that, but I don't believe it literally. If the Lord were literally my Shepherd then wouldn't I have to be a literal sheep? And I'm not" (21). The Bible is not a textbook. The point of the many books of the Bible isn't to tell us with scientific accuracy the origin of the cosmos or the horticultural truth of things like when Jesus says "the mustard seed is the smallest of all the seeds" (Mark 4:31--it's not, the orchid seed is smaller).



## A Note from Pace Continued

That brings me to the next point, which is people will often ask if the Bible is inerrant, a fancy word to mean that everything in the Bible is to be taken as literal truth. There are many ways to counter this claim, for instance, the Bible contradicts itself quite a bit. A book written over the course of several thousand years by hundreds of authors and then translated into languages very different from its original languages of course would have some contradictions and inaccuracies. But my favorite thing is something one of my seminary professors, Marty Stevens, told us. She said, “We don’t believe that the Bible is inerrant on matters of science, but we do believe the Bible is 100% true in showing us God’s relationship with humanity.” As I quoted Luther above as saying, the scriptures are the cradle for the Word of God—Jesus—to be laid. It shows us Jesus, it points us to God, but it does not and should not replace Jesus. Or to quote from *Opening the Book of Faith* again, “I hope you love the Bible, but remember this—the Bible will never love you back. Jesus will. It is Jesus who loves you, not the Bible. You cannot have a relationship with the Bible. You can have a relationship with Jesus” (32).

The last thing I’ll say is that Lutherans are encouraged to read the Bible on our own, to dive deep into its stories and read about the promises therein. But, for Luther and Lutherans around the world, that cannot and should not ever replace hearing the Word of God in community. Luther spoke again and again about the importance of hearing God’s word: hearing the Bible stories in church read out loud, hearing the truths of the stories proclaimed from the pulpit, and most importantly, hearing the promises made alive for us.

Perhaps that is the most important thing about what Luther and Lutherans around the world believe about the Bible: it is an invitation for all to “listen with us.” Listen to the promises, listen to the challenges, listen to the sorrows and heartbreaks and joys and comfort. Listen with us to the Word of God, experience it with us in the sacraments of communion and baptism, and live the Word of God in service to a world in need, hungry for those promises. Listen with us.



Congratulations to our third graders  
Max, Declan, and Leo!

As Pastor Ashley said, consider sharing a  
favorite Bible story or Bible verse with  
them. Let’s listen, together.

Peace and all good,

Pace Warfield

## A Note from the Racial Justice Team

Now that the temps are warming up and green leaves are popping out, perhaps you're feeling ready to come out of winter hibernation. Do you have an itch to explore a new place or try something different from your usual everyday activities? The Racial Justice Team has a few suggestions for you!

1. Visit Hokokata Ti. A few of us from VoP and other Wildfire churches visited on April 6, and we highly recommend it! An easy drive to Shakopee, Hokokata Ti is the cultural center and gathering space for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's tribe members. Their public exhibit, Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake, offers visitors an opportunity to learn more about the culture and history of the Dakota people in Minnesota. Starting with their creation story, you will notice and ponder many similarities to our Biblical creation story. As you wander through the interactive displays and colorful artifacts, you'll realize how much you didn't learn in your history class at school. There's also a lovely gift shop and library to browse as well. Check out [www.hokokatati.org](http://www.hokokatati.org) to plan your visit and bring the kids or grandkids – my eleven-year-old is asking when we can go back!
2. Visit the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. You can continue your learning about Native culture and history with their exhibits, *Our Home: Native Minnesota* and *Reframing Our Stories*. Through photographs, maps, artifacts, and stories, you'll have the opportunity to connect with their experience of survival, resilience, and adaptation. Also, on display through June 9, you can visit the exhibit, *Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow*, to learn about the history of the African American fight for full citizenship and racial equality in the 50 years following the Civil War. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org).
3. Attend the Racial Healing Circle: White Allies event at the Penumbra Theatre on July 20. The circle event will include food, fellowship, facilitated conversation, and a wellness offering to support personal and collective transformation. Participation is free but registration is required. Interested in going, but don't want to go alone? Barb Mikelson is signed up and would love for others to join her. Feel free to reach out to Barb at [barbm2016@gmail.com](mailto:barbm2016@gmail.com) if you're interested or have any questions.





# MUSIC IS LOVE

World Premiere Concert

*Join us for*  
a special performance  
celebrating the 10th  
anniversary  
of the dementia defying

## Giving Voice Choruses

Sunday, June 9th, 2024, 2:00pm  
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN

**Tickets on sale at**

<http://tinyurl.com/yck882kz>

or visit [givingvoicechorus.org](http://givingvoicechorus.org)



**CELEBRATING**

10 years of the joy of music

**CELEBRATING**

10 years of defying dementia

**CELEBRATING**

5 Giving Voice Choruses at  
Orchestra Hall



**For any questions about the  
concert, group tickets, or  
sponsorship opportunities:**

Reach out to (612) 440-9660 or  
[info@givingvoicechorus.org](mailto:info@givingvoicechorus.org)

We would love to hear from  
you!

Marv & Elaine Lofquist are Founding Members of the Giving Voice Chorus. Started in 2014, the chorus has grown from one chorus in Minneapolis to five choruses in the Twin Cities including a chorus for the Spanish community and the Amazing Grace Chorus for the African American community. In ten years there are 50 more choruses in the Giving Voice vein in the United States, Canada and Australia.

## Rebecca's Circle & Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

### Schedule:

9:30 am Coffee & Social

10:00 am Bible Study led by Pastor Ashley from the May/June issue of *Gather* magazine published by the Women of the ELCA.

11:30 am Spring Luncheon (Cost: \$10) hosted by Leslie Gilyard & Elaine Lofquist

### Compassionate Companions

In biblical times, mental illness was often misunderstood and thought to be caused by demonic possession. In modern times, we have learned much more about brain chemistry. Looking particularly at biblical people and passages that relate to living with mental illness, the May devotional reminds us of Jesus' compassionate care for those who struggle.

RSVP by May 10th if you plan on attending the luncheon.

Elaine Lofquist - em.lofquist@comcast.net

Home: (763)432-7966 or Mobile (612)816-5591

Please join us if you want to find out more about Rebecca Circle.

We meet monthly for Bible Study and fellowship.

Whether you can come monthly or occasionally - you are always welcome.

### Directions to South Wirth Apartments

East on Olson Memorial Highway past Highway 100 to Meadow Lane.

(Meadow Lane is one stoplight west of Theodore Wirth Parkway)

Turn right onto Meadow Lane and immediately turn left into the parking area of South Wirth Apartments.

Enter the vestibule and a member of Rebecca Circle will let you into the lobby. Take the elevator to the 4th Floor.

If you enter the vestibule and a greeter isn't there -  
Press the Party Room intercom or call (612)816-5591  
Elaine will "BUZZ" you into the lobby.



## Book Club at VoP

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85977113473?pwd=aWwrM1crbjVodE1UVFpKVldvbEg1dz09>

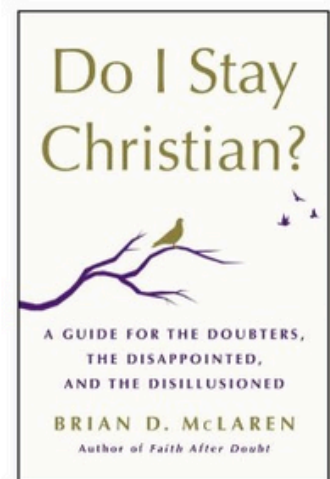
# May Book Club at VoP!

Our VoP Book Club generally meets on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** each month at **6:30 via Zoom!** The link is on the **VoP calendar**. We look forward to seeing our regulars, plus anyone else who feels like joining us! You needn't have read the book, just drop by for small group conversation, and hear a little about some of the books we choose to read! It is a great way to connected, share, and learn!

**May 1 & May 22**

**Do I Stay Christian?** by Brian D. McLaren.

The author addresses in public the powerful question that surprising numbers of people—including pastors, priests, and other religious leaders—are asking in private. Picking up where *Faith After Doubt* leaves off, *Do I Stay Christian?* is not McLaren's attempt to persuade Christians to dig in their heels or run for the exit. Instead, he combines his own experience with that of thousands of people who have confided in him over the years to help readers make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity.



### Reconciling in Christ Statement

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.

Please check the calendar at [www.valleyofpeace.org](http://www.valleyofpeace.org) for the latest information on events and activities at Valley of Peace.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/4: Sara Blood & Cheryl Stetler

5/6: Boden Moravec & Chad Schneider

5/8: Casey Balint

5/9: Linda Franz

5/10: David Franke & Kacey Laurent

5/11: Neil Peterson

5/12: Liam Black

5/14: Daisy Braem & Elsie Braem

5/15: Barb Mikelson

5/16: CeCe Pockl Schneider

5/17: Leo Cook

5/19: Bennett Laurent

5/20: Sabra Edwards

5/23: Zachary Pierson & Matt Dellwo

5/24: Jon Ewald & Karl Schiebe

5/27: Dayton Franke

5/29: Timothy Anderson

## HAPPY Anniversary

5/10: Abbey & Craig Wiltzius, their 16th;

5/17: Mary Hovden & John Roll, their 38;

5/24: Hsu-hui Wang & Eric Moen, their 21st



# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg 6:00 pm Youth Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Confirmation	2 10:00 am Text Study	3	4
5 9:00 am Adult FF 9:30 am Children's FF 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Chili Cook-Off 11:30 am New Member Class	6 6:00 pm Open Ringing 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	7	8 4:00 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Youth Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	9 10:00 am Text Study 5:30 pm Taste of the Burbs	10	11
12 9:00 am Adult FF 9:30 am Children's FF Party! 10:15 am Worship	13	14 8:00 am Gerten's Delivery 9:30 am Rebecca's Circle & Spring Luncheon 7:00 pm AGCLC Board Meeting	15	16 10:00 am Text Study	17	18 4:30 pm Question or Two & A Brew
19 9:00 am Adult FF 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting	20	21 6:15 pm Council Meeting	22 6:00 pm Chancel Choir Year End Party 6:30 pm Book Club	23 10:00 am Text Study	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

Please check the calendar at [www.valleyofpeace.org](http://www.valleyofpeace.org) for the latest information & details on events and activities at Valley of Peace.