



**THE VOICE April 2025**

## **Valley of Peace Lutheran Church**



*Our Mission*

Living in God's love and compassion, we are called and sent by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit works through us for healing, justice, and peace.



**valley of peace**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

763-588-4611

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# HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

VALLEY OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Palm Sunday Worship (Sunday, April 13)

10:15 am Worship followed by a  
light Palm Sunday Brunch & Children's Activities

## Maundy Thursday Worship (Thursday, April 17)

6:45 pm Worship with First Communion  
and the Stripping of the Altar

## Good Friday Worship (Friday, April 18)

6:45 pm A Service of Lament on the Seven Last Words

## Easter Sunday Worship (Sunday, April 20)

10:15 am Traditional Easter Worship  
with the Processional of the Cross and Holy Communion



## QUESTION OR TWO

In April, we will meet on Saturday, April 12th at 4:30 p.m. We'll meet at La Dona Cervceria, 241 Fremont Ave No, Minneapolis, 55405. Come visit with both old and new friends! Never been before? ALL are welcome!

## APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH: LOAVES AND FISHES

As far back as the 1980's, VoP has had volunteers working with Loaves & Fishes in various capacities. These included meal planning, shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. Folks began in the morning and worked till 7 PM to get it all done. Today this job is greatly simplified and planned by an L&F staff person.

Needing Volunteers:

Where - Brunswick United Methodist Church, 42nd Ave, west of Hwy 100.

When - One Wednesday afternoon/evening a month 4 PM - 6:30 PM.

To do - Meal prep, chop vegetables, make salads, clean fruit, prepare and fill take-out containers. These are then taken outside to the waiting vehicle of the guests, who simply drive up and indicate the number of meals needed.

We are currently serving 60 to 85 meals on the second Wednesday of each month with a team of 3 or 4 people. We would like to expand our service to an additional Wednesday each month. If you would like to add to our presence for this service, please talk with any of our current servers. We are Kathy Boesen, Dave Gilyard, Pat Hepner, Jon and Ruth Larson, Paul Mikelson and Ken and Lynn Schneider.

VALLEY OF PEACE

# LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

**All are welcome.**

**WEDNESDAYS FROM MARCH 12 TO APRIL 9**

**5:45 - 6:30 SUPPER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**6:45 - 7:30 WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

All are welcome to enjoy this meal and time together. Come anytime. You are also welcome to stay for Lenten Worship focused on Community & Life Together

Free will donations are requested. Proceeds will benefit the 5 Valley of Peace High School Youth traveling to North Carolina in July to assist with Hurricane Clean Up.



## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS. APRIL 2 AND 9

A favorite part of Lent has returned this year! We have just two more Wednesday's to get together for a light supper of soup, bread and salad, and dessert before our Lenten worship service. We will gather at 5:45 for the meal in the Fellowship Hall, and then stay for worship at 6:45.

The members of the Church Council will each take a turn to set up and clean up the suppers, so do give them your thanks!

**What can you do?** Please **sign up** on the poster in the upstairs entry to bring part of the meal. Just remember, that we are not planning to use our kitchen for anything, so please **bring your own soup ladles or salad serving utensils**, and plan to bring them home for washing afterwards. **Also soups must arrive hot and in a crock pot.** Your meal contributions should be brought in by 5:30.

Thank you for you for your participation, as we look forward to this opportunity for fellowship!

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## PASTOR CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE IS RETIRING!

Pastor Chris has shared with her current congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater, that she will be retiring from ministry. Her last Sunday at Trinity will be on Sunday, May 18. Pastor Chris served Valley of Peace for several years before her call to serve Trinity, and she has shared that she looks forward to visiting Valley of Peace after her retirement! Let us pray for Pastor Chris in this season of transition and for Trinity Lutheran. We give thanks to God for her call to ministry and all that is to come for her in retirement.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR POP-UP

Calling all musical children and youth! Pace is starting a pop-up children and youth choir that will sing on Palm Sunday (April 13th) and Pentecost Sunday (June 8th). There will be one or two rehearsals ahead of each performance in worship, kids and youth are invited to participate in either or both depending on schedules. Rehearsal times are to be determined based on interested participants' availability and schedules. Please email Pace [cyf@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:cyf@valleyofpeace.org) for more information or to express interest.





[PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH](#)

Please plan to stay for light refreshments immediately following Palm Sunday worship. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall and get to hear an update on the Lower Level improvements as well as our Rejoice and Renew Campaign. All are welcome!

## APRIL ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Please join us in the Fireside Room, Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.  
The coffee is always on!**

Apr 6: Bread for the World's 2025 Offering of Letters Come and join Christians from more than 300 congregations throughout the United States in writing letters to our Members of Congress, asking them to support funding for federal programs (e.g., SNAP, WIC and foreign aid) that address the needs of people who are hungry in this nation and abroad. Led by Marty and Dottie Fergus!



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



*April Adult Faith Formation con't....*

Apr 13: Domestic Violence Affects Individual, Families, and More! Join us on Sunday, April 13th from 9-10 am as we welcome a special guest speaker, Courtney Flug, Community Outreach and Education Manager with local nonprofit, Sojourner Project. In this session, we will identify common warning signs of abuse, debunk myths, and learn practical ways to support survivors. Sojourner's mission is to provide emergency shelter, support, and legal advocacy to those victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault. <https://www.sojournerproject.org/> All are welcome!



April 20: Easter, NO Adult Faith Formation

Apr 27: Rewriting Our Story of Nature The threat of climate change feels urgent and desperate, yet so do many other crises happening in the world these days. We may want to do something but don't know where to start, feel like we (or our politicians) are not doing enough, or feel so overwhelmed by the magnitude of it all that it's easier to avoid thinking about it altogether. What if the solution for climate justice starts simply within us, to re-examine the words, stories, and ideologies that have inaccurately shaped our beliefs and behaviors, and to make choices that repair our ruptured relationship with the natural world? Join Ann Dybvig as we ponder our stories of nature and take steps to reconnect with God's beautiful creation. Ann promises this won't be another climate conversation that will leave you feeling anxious.

 **PRISM'S TWELFTH ANNUAL**

# TASTE OF THE 'BURBS

**TWO LOCATIONS**



*Scan for tickets,  
online auction, and  
more event details.*



**ONE NIGHT OF FUN**

*An incredible event  
filled with food,  
drinks, live and  
silent auctions,  
fundraising  
activities, awards  
and more!*

**THURSDAY, MAY 8TH, 2025**

HOSTED AT

**FRANKIE'S**



**METROPOLITAN**  
BALLROOM & CLUBROOM

**CELEBRATE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF  
SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY!**



**Thank You to PRISM's Taste of the 'Burbs 2025 Exclusive Event Sponsors**

## NOTE ON A VALLEY OF PEACE GENEROUS FINANCIAL GIFT

Valley of Peace received a generous check from a donor-advised fund in late February and two checks from Fidelity (one in February and one in March) These checks do not have the identification of the donors. If you think one of these this might be from your donor-advised fund or your brokerage account, please contact Pam Syverson, our Financial Secretary, [financialsecretary@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:financialsecretary@valleyofpeace.org). And, just a friendly reminder that when you are donating out of a brokerage or charitable fund, please be sure to indicate your identity on the check. Thank you for your continued support of Valley of Peace.

### THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who either made a financial gift, or volunteered their time, to help us build 200 newborn kits. As the old saying goes “many hands make light work“. These kits were brought to Global Health Ministries for distribution to families in need around the globe.



**REBECCA CIRCLE TUESDAY, APRIL 8**  
**9:30am - 11:30am**

The Bible Study is from the March/April/May issue of *Gather* magazine published by the Women of the ELCA.

**BIBLE STUDY: FAITHFULNESS**

**Session Four: Faith Risks: Jairus & the Faithful Woman  
Relying on God's faithfulness in times of difficulty.**

When Jairus and the woman who is bleeding reach out in their pain and disappointment, Jesus meets them with compassion. Jesus is present in our actions as well, when our listening and grace make stand out from the world around us.

**The Bible Study led by Pastor Ashley begins at 10:00am.  
Come at 9:30am for social time.**

Hosted by Chrys Johnson & Elaine Lofquist  
4th floor Party Room at South Wirth Apartments  
501 Theodore Wirth Parkway in Golden Valley  
A greeter will be in the lobby to welcome you and direct you to the meeting.

Mark the second Tuesday of each month on your calendar and join us.  
Whether you can come monthly or occasionally, **you are always welcome.**

You don't need a copy of the magazine to participate.

**If you have any questions or need directions contact - Elaine Lofquist**  
[em.lofquist@comcast.net](mailto:em.lofquist@comcast.net) 763-432-7966 (home) or 612-816-5591 (mobile)



LAKE AREA  
Discovery  
Center



Thank you to all who joined us for our FREE DJ Howie Dance Party Family Event at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church!

Families enjoyed toe-tappin' tunes, activities, and yummy snacks as we celebrated the opening of our NEW preschool, All God's Children Discovery Center - serving Infants-Age 5!

**Seeking a high-quality Early Learning Program for your Infant-5 Year-Old in the Golden Valley Area? Look no further!**

We are NOW enrolling Infants-Age 5 for THIS September at our newest preschool location, All God's Children Discovery Center, located at Valley of Peace! □

See how our Nationally-Accredited, Faith-Based Early Learning program has been building bright futures for Minnesota's littlest learners for +25 years, and **schedule a tour at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3ewk5d>**





### **Psychological First Aid**

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is an evidence-informed 2-hour virtual training for all community members and professionals. Trainees will learn how to support healthy recovery in individuals following a traumatic event, public health emergency, natural disaster, or personal crisis. The curriculum integrates public health, community health and individual psychology by drawing upon skills the trainees already have. The goal of PFA is to teach trainees how to reduce distress and negative health behaviors by providing practical help and promoting resilience. CEU's are available.

### **Participants will learn:**

- The impact traumatic experiences can have on individuals, and how burnout may impact frontline staff and first responders.
- The five pillars of the PFA framework and how to apply them to support someone who has experienced a traumatic event.
- How to recognize when an individual should be referred to a mental health professional.

### **Who should attend?**

Anyone can attend! This training is for community members or professionals, including community volunteers, frontline staff, nonprofit workers, direct service staff, community health workers and other professionals.

Register [HERE](#) for any of the training courses listed below:

**Thursday, March 27, 9 – 11 a.m.**

**Wednesday, April 9, 9 – 11 a.m.**

**Thursday, April 24, 12 – 2 p.m.**

**Wednesday, June 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Thursday, June 26, 1 – 3 p.m.**

For more information about these upcoming programs, contact [Kathryn.taylor@fairview.org](mailto:Kathryn.taylor@fairview.org).



Minneapolis Area Synod  
of the ELCA

## New Partnership with Faith+Lead

The Minneapolis Area Synod and [Faith+Lead](#) are beginning a new pilot partnership!

**Faith+Lead is offering free access to its online courses, monthly workshops, group coaching calls, and more, to all leaders and members that are part of the Minneapolis Area Synod!**



These courses and workshops can be used for personal study and growth, small group curriculum, or even larger group use like a forum or education hour. You can sign up for a Faith+Lead membership through the Minneapolis Area Synod if you are a church member, visitor, questioner, volunteer, pastor, deacon, or staff member -- anyone who has a connection with the Synod or a congregation in the synod.

This partnership between the Minneapolis Area Synod and Faith+Lead is a pilot project designed to connect more people with the great resources Faith+Lead has to offer and give users an opportunity to provide feedback on Faith+Lead's systems and courses. Participants may occasionally be asked to respond to questions or surveys from the Synod and/or Faith+Lead.

If you're interested in accessing these resources, sign up below and set up your personal account under the Minneapolis Area Synod all-access membership! We're excited about this new partnership and look forward to seeing how our congregations and leaders use the program.

[Sign Up](#)

To learn more and sign up, go to <https://lab.faithlead.org/mps-synod/>



### Birthdays:

Jenna Hoge, 4/2; Pastor Ashley, 4/6; Isabella Wallace, 4/7;  
Emilee Moravec, 4/8; Gina Privratsky, 4/10; Betty Hill, 4/12;  
Leo Anderson 4/15; Loren Stetler, 4/16; Sara Hoge, 4/18;  
William Schueth, 4/18; Cindy Carow, 4/19; Max Froyum, 4/21;  
Kris Ahlbrecht, 4/23; Phoebe Nelson, 4/24; Diane Hinderlie, 4/25;  
Kari Roll, 4/25

### Anniversaries

Linda and Joe Cherra, 4/18, their 55th; Sabra and Davis Edwards, 4/20,  
their 29th; Becca and Tom Anderson, 4/21, their 18th;  
Suzann and Matthew Swaggert, 4/25, their 16th

### *We invite you to remember in prayer:*

The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria/our Congregation partner -  
LCCN, St. Luke Cathedral, Mayo-Gwoi, Jalingo, Nigeria and  
Pastor Talmon Yakaba

The children and youth of Valley of Peace and the members of the  
congregation who pray for them daily.

The congregation of Valley of Peace, that we extend an open welcome to  
all people and model in our community the reconciling ministry of  
Jesus Christ.

Those who have health concerns or are receiving treatment.

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***Prayer requests are listed with permission.***

*If you would like to be included in the prayers please contact the Church*

## **Valley of Peace Staff**

### ***Pastor***

Ashley Osborn  
(she/her/hers)  
[aosborn@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:aosborn@valleyofpeace.org)

### ***Organist / Pianist / Accompanist***

Beth Brandt  
(she/her/hers)  
[organist@valleyofpeace.com](mailto:organist@valleyofpeace.com)

### ***Director of Music***

Christine Weatherman  
(she/her/hers)  
[music@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:music@valleyofpeace.org)

### ***Interim Ministry Support Coordinator***

Sally Herron  
(she/her/hers)  
[office@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:office@valleyofpeace.org)

### ***Director of Children, Youth and Family***

Pace Warfield  
(they/them/theirs)  
[cyf@valleyofpeace.org](mailto:cyf@valleyofpeace.org)

Valley of Peace is  
committed to Racial  
Justice & is a  
Reconciling in Christ  
Church.

