



THE VOICE June 2025

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

A Word from Pastor Ashley

This June, we will step into the long green season of the church year, Ordinary Time, which is anything but ordinary. We will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 8, and with it the wild, holy breath of God. The Spirit moves among us still, not just in wind and flame, but in silence, stillness, and slow unfolding growth. This summer, we are calling it the *Summer of the Spirit*, a season to lean deeply into contemplative prayer and the quiet ways God is moving in and around us.

The Spirit doesn't always come with clear direction or loud proclamation. Sometimes, as Paul writes in Romans 8:26, *"the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."* Many of us are holding complex emotions, unspoken hopes, and deep questions. And yet, even in our wordlessness, the Spirit is present, praying in us, through us, for us.

con't inside...

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

www.valleyofpeace.org
office@valleyofpeace.org
4735 Bassett Creek Drive
Golden Valley, MN 55422

A Word from Pastor Ashley con't...

Contemplative prayer offers us space to notice. It slows us down so we can breathe with God. As author and mystic Thomas Keating once said, *“Contemplative prayer is the world in which God can do anything.”* It’s not about saying the right things; it’s about being present and letting God be present with us.

This summer, we invite you to make space for the Spirit. Join us for Sunday worship as we listen for the Word and share in the mystery of grace. We will worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and be in the sanctuary and on Facebook live. I also invite you to come on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. for our contemplative prayer service, “Pray Without Ceasing,” where we gather in the quiet to practice listening, noticing, and resting in God’s love.

Together, we will explore how the Spirit speaks, not just in fire and tongues, but in rustling leaves, quiet tears, shared laughter, and deep breaths. The Spirit is still unfolding among us, drawing us into peace, into compassion, into love.

May this Summer of the Spirit open us to all that God is doing, even when we do not yet have words.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ashley

VALLEY OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.

VALLEY OF PEACE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we live and worship near waters and on land taken from the Wahpekute band of the Santee Dakota Nation, who were the original inhabitants of this area. We honor their wise stewardship of this place and the recognition that we are all part of the same creation. The injustice and trauma experienced by Native civilizations, with the arrival of the Europeans in America, have had a lasting impact on these nations. We are responsible to recognize and counter the historical and contemporary injustices that continue in our time. We honor with gratitude the spirit of the peoples from long ago, the spirit of the Native people who live among us today, and the spirit filled people of Valley of Peace, united in this place.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

We believe we are all created in God's image and that we are called by Jesus, through the workings of the Holy Spirit for healing, justice, and peace, to reconciliation, service, and care for all of God's beloved community.



PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 8

Wear Red on Sunday,
June 8, as we celebrate
Pentecost and the
movement of the Spirit!

We will hear from Andrew
Brandt, Pace Warfield, and
Pat Hoyt speak to how they
feel the Spirit still today.

PJ STORYTIME WITH PACE

Beginning June 22nd at 6:45pm, Pace will be hosting a weekly “PJ Storytime with Pace” over the summer for children on Zoom. Children are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal and wear their pajamas for a short bedtime story that Pace will read over Zoom, followed by a time to connect and pray together.

If you are interested in being on the email chain to receive the Zoom link and more information, email Pace Warfield at cyf@valleyofpeace.org



CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR POP-UP

Children and Youth are invited to attend a pop-up choir on Pentecost Sunday (June 8th!). There will be one rehearsal ahead of time and then we will meet and sing the day of. Email Pace at cyf@valleyofpeace.org if your child or youth is interested and they can forward to you a copy of the music and a recording to listen to ahead of time.

Rehearsal: Wednesday, June 4th; 6:00-6:30pm in the sanctuary.

Pentecost Sunday: practice at 9:00am; performance in worship



JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH:
EXODUS LENDING

Launched in 2015, Exodus Lending's 0% interest Refinancing Loan program paid off up to \$1.5K of payday, pawn, auto title, or online installment loans carrying more than 36% annual interest for qualified Minnesotans. Since their start, they have paid off more than \$757K of high-interest loans for more than 770 Minnesotans, which they estimate has saved program participants more than \$2.5 million that they would have otherwise paid to predatory lenders over a year.

Help them to continue this great work for our community! Make a contribution today to Exodus Lending. Either go to our VoP website, and designate your gift, or write a check to VoP, with Exodus Lending in the memo line. Thank you!



EXODUS
LENDING



One of PRISM's essential Food Rescue vans — which helps them collect and distribute more than **40,000 pounds of rescued food each month** — has been out of service since February due to major mechanical issues. With repair parts on national backorder and no completion date in sight, they are adapting by renting transportation to maintain their food rescue operations. While this solution improves efficiency, it's placing a significant strain on their budget.

Here's how we can help: Their longtime partners at **Allianz Life**, this year's *Light of PRISM Award* recipients, are generously **matching every donation, up to \$6,000**, to help them reach the \$20,000 needed for repairs and interim transportation. [Donate today to double your donation!](#)

QUESTION OR TWO

In **June** we will be meeting at Mariana's place on the **14th**: Calibre Chase Apartments, 6315 55th Ave N in Crystal. Use the front door and dial 20 to get in. Bring your own beverage and Mariana will provide snacks. Come visit with both old and new friends! Never been before? ALL are welcome!



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING INVITATION

Three weeks before the beginning of Lent, Pastor Ashley felt compelled by the swirl of action and anxiety that arrived with the new administration to invite us to gather for an additional, intentional time of prayer and conversation to share our experiences. We met for three Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for song, scripture, prayer, and discussion. Those who were able to participate found it meaningful.

Now, in response to an invitation from **Bishop Jen Nagel**, congregations and communities in our synod are signing up to host weekly “Pray Without Ceasing” gatherings – joining congregations from across the ELCA in a call to prayer.

As the apostle Paul called the early Christians to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:16), we also pray - out of love for God and neighbor, especially the neighbors most affected by the changes in our world.

At Valley of Peace, we will meet weekly for prayer on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm, in the sanctuary.**

We hope you will join us! All are welcome. Come when you can and as you are. No need to pre-register or make a long-term commitment. Just show up. Laurie Eaton and Pastor Ashley will rotate leading us in a 30-minute informal and non-partisan service of prayer, song, scripture, and community.

HELP US MAKE OUR REJOICE AND RENEW ULTIMATE GOAL

We are so close to completing our Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign “Ultimate Goal” of \$1.3 million! We have only \$7,588 away from reaching that goal! We recently received a \$5,000 pledge and the donor is hoping that their gift would encourage others to help! If 4 members would pledge \$2,000 (or 8 pledge \$1,000) we would be right there.

If you are able to help, please ask the office for a pledge card or speak to a member of our Campaign Continuation Committee: Pastor Ashley, Diane Hinderlie, Lauren Pockl or Paul Mikelson.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HABITAT

The Valley of Peace Habitat team project will be in September this year: Wednesday to Friday, 9/17 - 9/19, 2025 - we will be working on a home remodel in Roseville. All are welcome to participate! If you have questions, direct them to Craig Franz or me.

Paul Mikelson
VoP Habitat Co-coordinator

REBECCA CIRCLE TUESDAY, JUNE 10
9:30am - 11:30am

The Bible Study is from the June/July/August issue of *Gather* magazine published by the Women of the ELCA.

BIBLE STUDY: FLOURISHING IN RELATIONSHIPS

In this three part Bible Study, we will explore
relationships that have formed us
relationships that sustain us
relationships that push us to grow.

June 10th

Session 1 - Relationships that form us: All in the family

Some of our most beloved Bible stories involve siblings and the trials and tribulations of relationships with families. We'll examine the stories of Jacob and Esau, as well as Mary and Martha, while considering what we learned in our own families about relationships. These biblical characters will help us to explore how our early family relationships shape how we think about the everyday relationships in our lives.

The Bible Study begins at 10:00am.

Come at 9:30am, for social time

Hosted by Pat Hoyt & 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
el.lofquist@comcast.net 763-432-7966 (home) or 612-816-5591 (mobile)

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Graduating High School Seniors will be recognized on **Sunday, June 8th** as part of worship. If your senior would like to participate, reach out to Pace!



SPRING CONFIRMATION PROJECTS

Each year, Valley of Peace's confirmation students work on a project to show a key learning from the past year. This year's projects will be displayed beginning June 8th and will be up for a few Sundays in June in the upstairs hallway. Check out what our Confirmation students have been up to!

BASSETT CREEK RESTORATION OPEN HOUSE

Community members are invited to an open house to provide input on the Bassett Creek/Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ restoration project on **Thursday, June 5**, 4–7 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The City and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission are nearing 50% plan designs for the upcoming creek stabilization project on Bassett Creek- Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ between Regent Ave N and Golden Valley Rd. The proposed project aims to stabilize streambanks, reduce erosion, improve water quality and habitat, and preserve the creek for future generations.

Project staff will be available to answer questions and collect feedback. The open house is free and open to all. Additional opportunities for public comment will be available on the City's project website after the event.

Learn more on the [project web page](#).



Dear Valley of Peace Friends,

I'll be participating in the [Cherish All Children Hybrid 5K](#) again this June, to support keeping children and youth safe from vulnerabilities and abuse, especially sexual exploitation and trafficking. This work is important to me because it is critical today given all the ways exploiters can reach youth online.

Cherish All Children supports youth and families with tools to stay safe and we can make a difference through our support! This event is more than a fundraiser, though. It's a time to celebrate our work together and strive to have an even greater impact within our community and beyond throughout the coming year. Last year we raised enough money to have our materials translated and printed into Spanish for use here and abroad.

Valley of Peace was a pilot congregation in the Minneapolis Area Synod at the urging of former Pastor and VoP member, Dave Tuff. We designed the first training manuals and we went out to other churches and Synod Assemblies with presentations. This ministry has continued to thrive, with new leadership, a different name, and connections to Lutheran Social Services. We work on prevention, but LSS gives us the connections for much needed help when prevention has failed.

* Please Sponsor me at: donate.lssmn.org/Cherish5K

* Check I am sponsoring a runner and then enter my name. If I am able to raise \$500, this will prompt a donor to match with another \$500! You can help me to raise \$1,000 to help keep kids safe.

Thanks you for your encouragement and support! If you are not able to donate, I would still appreciate your prayers! Everyone has different seasons for giving, which I know firsthand!

Blessings,

Nancy Rogness

Want to Garden at VoP?

We have two gardening opportunities at church this summer. We need folks to help tend the garden beds in our "yard". If you can help with that, please let Dan Weatherman know at property@valleyofpeace.org

Then, we celebrated Jesus' resurrection on Easter, and now we're resurrecting the raised garden beds on the terrace by the parking lot. Reserve a 4x6 garden bed in the new VoP community garden, tend it through the summer, and enjoy your own homegrown fresh produce. We'll have 7 beds available to rent for \$10 for the entire growing season. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Ann Dybvig at anndybvig@msn.com or 763-807-8673.





JOIN US AT GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We're excited to share that **Golden Valley Pride** is just around the corner, and Valley of Peace will once again be part of this joyful and inclusive event!

Golden Valley Pride is an annual celebration of LGBTQ individuals, families, and friends in our community. Held at **Brookview Park on Saturday, June 7 from 12–6 PM**, this **family-friendly festival** features local exhibitors, live music, food trucks, bouncy houses and games, a beer and wine garden, and so much more. It's a day filled with love, celebration, and community. And **everyone is welcome**.

VoP is partnering with the other Wildfire churches this year to have a booth at the festival, and we'd love your help! Whether you can lend a hand for an hour or two, or stay for the whole afternoon, your presence makes a difference. It's a great opportunity to connect with our neighbors and show our support for LGBTQ folks and families.

Interested in volunteering? Sign up here:



[Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet](#)

Thank you for helping us live out love in action. We hope to see you there!

Come to the table...



Join the Wildfire Lutheran Churches for worship and time of fellowship
to follow at 7 pm on 2nd Wednesdays of the month this summer...

June 11 - Elim, Robbinsdale

July 9 - Holy Nativity, New Hope

August 13 - Cross of Glory, Brooklyn Center



1. If you would like to share music this summer, we are eager for all types. We would love singing, playing instruments, strumming guitars, whatever the spirit moves you to do. Please contact Christine Weatherman if you are interested at music@valleyofpeace.org or 612-834-3228.
2. We will be adding an ELCA hymnal supplement to our worship services. It is called All Creation Sings. It was published in 2020 and has many pieces that center on our mission statement. Please consider donating to this project. You may do so electronically and indicate ACS in the memo, or by check or cash. See Christine with questions.
3. We have started the practice of choosing hymns in a group format. Each month Pastor Ashley, Christine, Beth and Pace gather along with 2 congregation members to choose hymns for the following month. If you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please contact Christine at music@valleyofpeace.org or 612-834-3228
4. The choir loft needs a spring cleaning. If you are handy with a vacuum and dust rag, please consider this opportunity. Contact Christine.



Birthdays:

Lauren Ahlbrecht, 6/1; Ethan Oas, 6/4; Ira Wiltzius, 6/5;
 Chrys Johnson, 6/7; Sten Pearson, 6/9; Amanda Brummel, 6/9; Linda
 Holstein, 6/11; Brian Ahlbrecht, 6/13; Laurie Bakke, 6/19; Karin
 Daniels, 6/20; Joe Cherra, 6/21; Scott Johannes, 6/22;
 Ann Dybvig, 6/23; Lillian Brummel, 6/23; Owen Brummel, 6/23;
 Hadley Boesen, 6/23; Sinclair Edwards, 6/24; Anna Halvorson, 6/25;
 Skip Humphrey, 6/26; Peter Rodman Rudolph, 6/27

Anniversaries

Linda and Neil Peterson, 6/9, their 57th; Anna and Sean Campbell, 6/9,
 their 13th; Jennifer and Tom Gale, 6/10/, their 19th; Wendy and Mark
 Wersal, 6/12, their 43rd; Dottie and Marty Fergus, 6/16, their 60th

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.

Prayer requests are listed with permission.

Valley of Peace Staff

Pastor

Ashley Osborn
 (she/her/hers)
aosborn@valleyofpeace.org

Organist / Pianist / Accompanist

Beth Brandt
 (she/her/hers)
organist@valleyofpeace.com

Interim Choir Director

Christine Weatherman
 (she/her/hers)
music@valleyofpeace.org

Interim Ministry Support Coordinator

Sally Herron
 (she/her/hers)
office@valleyofpeace.org

Director of Children, Youth and Family

Pace Warfield
 (they/them/theirs)
cyf@valleyofpeace.org

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

