

THE VOICE July 2025

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

A Word from Pastor Ashley

At the end of July, I will have the honor and responsibility of attending the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, as one of 30 voting members representing the Minneapolis Area Synod. This gathering, which takes place every three years, brings together leaders and representatives from across the ELCA to worship, pray, make decisions, and discern together how God is calling us to be church in the world today. We will be electing new leaders, including a Presiding Bishop and a Secretary of the ELCA, engaging in deep conversations about the future of the ELCA, and considering memorials and social statements that impact the life of our church and its public witness. This is sacred work. It requires humility, courage, listening, and hope.

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

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A Word from Pastor Ashley con't...

One important focus of this year's assembly will be the reception and discussion of the work of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC). This commission was formed in response to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly's call to consider the structure and mission of the ELCA in a changing world. The CRLC has been tasked with imagining how our church can be more faithful, relevant, and responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. The work of this commission will help shape the future of the ELCA, and it deserves our attention, prayers, and engagement.

I invite you to take time to read the documents and memorials that will be considered at the Churchwide Assembly. You can find them at www.elca.org/churchwideassembly. They cover a wide range of topics, from climate justice to governance, from ecumenical partnerships to racial equity. I welcome your input and feedback as you read through the documents.

As your pastor, I will carry Valley of Peace with me into every prayer, conversation, and vote. I will be listening not only for the Spirit's movement but also with your voices in my heart. I ask for your prayers, for me and for all who are going, that we may be faithful and courageous, open and discerning.

Thank you for your prayers and your support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I look forward to sharing all that we experience with you later this summer and fall.

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.

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

PJ STORYTIME WITH PACE

Throughout the summer at 6:45pm, Pace will be hosting a weekly “PJ Storytime with Pace” on Sunday 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, YOUTH AND FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY

The CYF Team will meet **July 27** after church, so around 11 AM. We are looking forward to establishing a calendar to post activities on so scheduling can be made easier for families and team members to participate.

Children Faith Formation (Pre-Kindergarten– 5th grade)

The focus has been establishing our teacher and assistants for the Sunday CFF. Our first team meeting will be **August 11** after church so around 11 AM. We are looking forward to having 2 fifth grade liaison members joining to give their input.

Here are a couple of dates that families with children in this age group will want to get on your calendars:

Rally Sunday - **September 7**

Christmas Pageant – **December 7**

Pace will be moving the CFF supplies to the youth room which will make it much more convenient.

As last year, we will be gathering at 9 AM for an hour. Because of construction, we may or may not be able to meet in the youth room. We are looking forward to reorganizing and refreshing the youth room once the items that are being stored in the space are moved out.

The curriculum will be following the same format as last year using the booklet “New Directions for Holy Questions”. Each Sunday the lead teacher will have the option to select the activity they would like to use with the lesson for that Sunday.

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CYF highlights con't...

Confirmation and High School Youth

The mission trip to North Carolina is fast approaching. There will be 6 confirmands (Evelyn Anderson, Naomi Dybvig, Leah Hepner, Colby Hovde, Lucia Mikelson, Noah Mikelson) and 2 chaperones (Becca Anderson & Pace Warfield) going. Thank you for your financial support and as they are still underfunded, there is still time to make a contribution. Please continue to keep them in your prayers for safe travels and their time spent helping with the ongoing hurricane relief efforts.

The confirmation curriculum this year will be based on World Religions. The mentors will play an important role in interacting with the confirmands.

We are looking forward to planning with the youth and then implementing their great ideas for the youth room organization, social, outreach, service and fund-raising activities for the coming year.

Lona Froyum-CYF Council Chair

Pace Warfield-CYF Director

WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS MOVING TO YOUTUBE STARTING JULY 6

Starting **Sunday, July 6**, Valley of Peace will begin livestreaming worship services on **YouTube** instead of Facebook.

This change comes in response to Facebook's new policy of deleting videos after 30 days. YouTube will enable us to provide a more stable, accessible, and long-term platform for both live and archived worship services.

What this means for you:

You can continue worshipping with us online in real time—no Facebook account needed.

Archived services will remain available for viewing any time.

You can still interact and comment during the livestream.



Bookmark our YouTube page: [youtube.com/
@valleyofpeacelutheranchurc4174](https://www.youtube.com/@valleyofpeacelutheranchurc4174)

Or visit valleyofpeace.org and click the “**Worship**” tab for a direct link to live and past services.

We're excited about this transition and look forward to worshipping with you online in a new way

QUESTION OR TWO

In **July** we will be meeting at the Fulton Taproom, 414 6th Ave No in Minneapolis. Come visit with both old and new friends! Never been before? ALL are welcome! **See you on the 19th at 4:30 pm**



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 continue to meet weekly for prayer on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm, in the Narthex.**

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.

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH
HUNGER INSECURITY



This was supposed to be the first time that AGCLC was the Mission of the Month but we have decided to wait until next year when they are more settled and can better determine how VoP can serve them.

So, with the economy the way it is, we have decided to focus on charities that help address hunger insecurity, specifically PRISM and Loaves and Fishes. You are welcome to specify which of these two you would like your donation to go to or to increase your normal food donations. Let's fill the red grocery cart to over-flowing! (PRISM is no longer accepting egg cartons) All unspecified donations will be pooled and split between the two.

God's Peace,

Dee Kendall, Social Ministries Chair

REBECCA CIRCLE TUESDAY, JULY 8
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 are exploring
relationships that have formed us
relationships that sustain us
relationships that push us to grow.

July 8th

Session 2 - Relationships that sustain us: Where you go, I will go.

One cannot go far in life without encountering suffering. Loss, betrayal and tragedy show up in our own lives and in the lives of those we love.

In this Bible study, we will explore the story of Naomi and Ruth, two women who held fast to their relationship in the face of great loss.

We'll consider what helps us to stay in relationship with others when we face seasons of grief and suffering in our own lives and the lives of others.

The Bible Study begins at 10:00am.

Come at 9:30am, for social time

Hosted by Julia Madison & 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 763-432-7966 (home) or 612-816-5591 (mobile)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for Vacation Bible School this year! Sponsored By Wildfire Churches: Cross of Glory, Elim, Faith Lilac Way, Holy Nativity, House of Hope, Valley of Peace and St. James Location: Cross of Glory 5929 Brooklyn Boulevard Brooklyn Center, MN Monday, August 11 —Thursday August 14, 2025 Meal at 5:15 pm, Program from 5:45pm—7:30pm.

Register by clicking here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UqlRJafW7wLCrHaUK3skP-cHx15DM9REZRx7uDEyUI8/>.

If you are interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School, please contact Pace at cyf@valleyofpeace.org





Dear Valley of Peace,

Thank you so much for your partnership with Every Meal this school year! Your partnership with us has been crucial to our mission to fight child hunger in Minnesota. Together, we've managed to distribute over 882 food bags to Noble Elementary this school year. That's over 3,380 meals!

Our gratitude goes far deeper than words can express. Your support hasn't just eased hunger, it's made it possible for children to focus in the classroom and to feel secure. Because of your unwavering commitment, they're not only nourished but also nurtured in ways that shape their future. Simply put, we couldn't do this without you.

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Every Meal is continuing to grow and expand our reach to children who desperately need food. Your impact of 882 food bags represents hope and change for an equitable future through our nutritious, delicious, and relevant food.

We truly can't put into words how much your support means to us. Because of you, we're able to bring hope, comfort, and nourishment to children who might otherwise go without. Your partnership not only fuels our mission, it touches lives and reminds us why we do this work every single day.

Zack Schornack

Development Manager, Community Engagement

612-552-4723

zschornack@everymeal.org



EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

WEED OR WHEAT?

Even though God will determine who is a weed and who is wheat, it's up to us to determine which is weed and which is not in our own VoP gardens. A number of weeds will soon be tall enough that there will be no question which is which! That being the case, you are cordially invited to come outdoors on **Saturday, July 12 from 8 - 12** to pull, yank, or otherwise obliterate the weeds at Valley of Peace. A group effort is always more enjoyable, so we look forward to seeing you then! There may be a mid-morning treat if the weeds aren't tempting enough. If you are interested in tending your favorite garden bed at VoP on a more regular basis, please let Dan Weatherman know at 612-849-3228. The weeds, unfortunately, grow all summer and we don't want to be the flock that doesn't tend its own garden!



ISAIAH MEETING

This is an invitation to stay after church on **July 20, 2025** for coffee and goodies and for an update on what is happening with ISAIAH.

“ISAIAH is vehicle for congregations, clergy and people of faith to act collectively and powerfully towards racial and economic equity in the state of Minnesota. By uniting local congregations, ISAIAH strengthens the ability of people of faith to address both local and regional community issues, including mass incarceration, immigration, healthcare and racial inequity.”

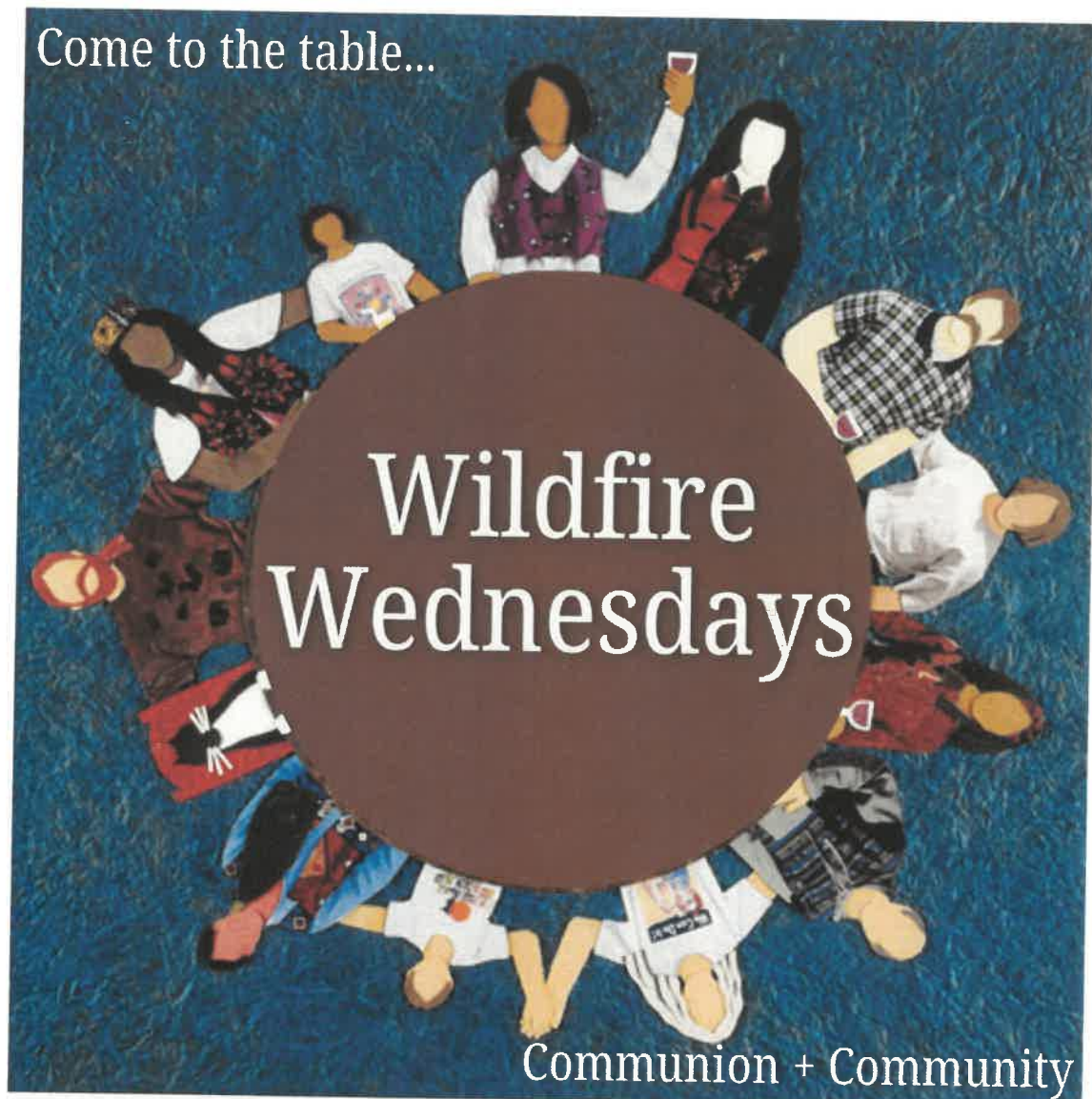
If you are tired of more bad news every day, please join us to find more about “the power of acting collectively in ways consistent with our faith values and principles of democracy.” We need to hear the stories of how lives are being impacted and then our feelings of powerlessness turns into power through a shared caring and support for each other and a common cause. We will be able to share information on opportunities that our presence can have a significant impact on the future landscape of Minnesota. We will all be needed to counteract “the authoritarian crisis we are facing today to make a different future possible.”

Dale and Lona Froyum will be available after church to answer questions. They look forward to chatting with you and hopefully see you on the 20th. An RSVP would be greatly appreciated.

lmfroyum@gmail.com

cell/text: 651-260-7602!

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. Choir and bells will begin again in September. September 7 will be a One and Done choir Sunday open to anyone who wants to sing! We will rehearse at 9:30 a.m.
2. If you would like to share music anytime during the year, we are eager for all types. Please contact Christine Weatherman if you are interested music@valleyofpeace.org or 612-834-3228.
3. We have added the new purple ELCA hymnal All Creation Sings. If you would like to contribute to the cost of these hymnals, please include ACS on your offering envelope, check or in the memo of your electronic gift. Thank you!



Birthdays:

Joe Thom, 7/1; Craig Wiltzius, 7/2; Erik Daniels, 7/2, Ingrid Daniels, 7/2; Joe Broin, 7/2; Jim Crofoot, 7/3; Josh Ruffin, 7/4; Arwen Campbell, 7/4; Angela Crofoot, 7/5; Tom Anderson, 7/7; Pat Hepner, 7/8; Emerson Pierson, 7/16; Oliver Pierson, 7/16; Dottie Fergus, 7/17; Melanie Froyum, 7/18; Sandy Resick, 7/19; Dave Gilyard, 7/22; Sawyer Wiltzius, 7/23; Darlene Lamker, 7/24; Ava Edwards, 7/24; Tyler Flikke, 7/24; Carolyn Rask, 7/26; Pat McGraw, 7/26; Wendy Wersal, 7/27; Aaron Briel, 7/27; Donovan Juliar, 7/28; Tom Hull, 7/29; Abby Stetler, 7/30

Anniversaries

Natalie & Josh Ruffin, 7/4, their 5th; Lynn & Ken Schneider, 7/12, their 39th; Beth & Ben Brandt, 7/12, their 17th; Emilie & Adrian Moravec, 7/14, their 18th; Melanie & Dusty Froyum, 7/14, their 17th; Anne & Pat McGraw, 7/18, their 32nd; Gina Privratsky & Lisa Thanghe, 7/18, their 10th; Mary King-Broin & Dan Broin, 7/19, their 22nd; Cindy Carow & Brian Schiebe, 7/26, their 22nd; Karin & Jon Daniels, 7/26, their 35th; Kelsey & Zachary Pierson, 7/30, their 8th

We invite you to remember in prayer:

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.

Valley of Peace Staff

Pastor

Ashley Osborn
(she/her/hers)

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

