



THE VOICE September 2025

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

A Word from Pastor Ashley

As we turn the page into September, we enter a new season together – the start of our program year! Rally Sunday (Sunday, September 7) is just around the corner, and it is more than simply a kick off event. It is a reminder that each time we gather for worship, learning, fellowship, or service, we are part of something larger than ourselves.

Again and again, I hear from members and visitors how deeply they are encouraged and inspired simply by being with one another. You may never know the quiet gift your presence offers to someone else. Your smile, your voice, your willingness to show up as your authentic self - these are all acts of care for our whole community of faith.

I hope you will join Valley of Peace on Rally Sunday and throughout the program year. Bring your gifts, your questions, your joys, your longings. Together, we are the Body of Christ, and together, God is doing something beautiful through our church.

See you soon,

Pastor Ashley

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



RALLY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPT 7

All are welcome as we celebrate the start of another program year for Valley of Peace Lutheran Church!

Schedule For Rally Sunday

9:00 am Adult Faith Formation

9:00 am Children's Faith Formation

9:30 Rehearsal for One & Done Choir

10:15 am Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks, please bring your backpack!

11:15 am Outdoor Food Truck & Activities
Activities include bouncy houses, bubbles,
and more!

MORE INFO AT WWW.VALLEYOFPEACE.ORG

Valley of Peace, 4735 Bassett Creek Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55422

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.

LOWER LEVEL IMPROVEMENT - PROJECT UPDATE

There was an outstanding response by selected general contractors to our Lower Level Renovation project.

On Tuesday, August 5, five of the six invited general contractors (GC's) participated in an initial walk-through of the VoP facility. The GC's brought along a number of sub-contractors with specialties in electrical, mechanical and plumbing. Approximately 30 subs checked out everything from power panels in the boiler room to exhaust vents on the flat roof tops.

A number of follow-up walk-throughs by GC's and sub-contractors digging into the "bones" of the building have occurred over the past several weeks.

August 28 - Proposals from general contractors are due.

September 2nd- the VoP Team will meet and review proposals/bids submitted by GC's. In addition to reviewing the proposals we will develop a list of questions that will be asked of the GC's at our in-person interviews with them.

September 15- VoP Team, together with our architect, will meet for in-person interviews with the selected General Contractors.

If all holds together, the plan would be to make a presentation to the Church Council by late September/early October. At that time, the project would be reviewed with a recommendation on the selection of a General Contractor/Proposal.

CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF: SEPTEMBER 10 AT 6:30PM
HIGH SCHOOLERS INVITED TOO!

We're excited to begin another year of Confirmation on **Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30pm** with a special **Parents' Night**. All students entering sixth grade—or anyone who has not yet participated in Confirmation—are invited to join us on this journey of faith. You can register your youth for confirmation by going to this link: <https://forms.gle/BWYMeiqpbNZRqi9e8>. Please fill out the registration form even if they are a returning student.

High school youth are also encouraged to come for a time of conversation and connection. To make the evening even better, we'll share a meal together—**hot dogs will be served!**

Come learn more about the year ahead, ask questions, and get connected as we grow together in faith.



MUSIC UPDATES!

1. Please join us for a One and Done choir on Rally Sunday September 7. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please let Christine know! Let us raise our voices!!
2. The first choir rehearsal and celebration will be on Wednesday, September 3. Please meet in the fellowship hall at 7 pm. We will do a little singing and a little eating and lots of visiting. Looking forward to a great year. Any questions contact Christine Weatherman.
3. The handbells are being refurbished. Stay tuned for updates on when the handbell choir will resume.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE EVENT EVERYONE
HAS BEEN WAITING FOR!**

**Sunday, October 12, immediately following Service (11:15 am)
Brought back by Popular Demand!
Chili Cook-Off and Auction/Raffle**

The *Children, Family and Youth Committee* are excited to announce the upcoming chili cook-off, silent auction, raffle, AND *live auction*, featuring our very own auctioneer, Dale Froyum! The proceeds will fund our *children and youth faith formation events*.

This is what we need from you to make this a big success for our kids!

We are looking for donations from every church committee, family, individual, service, and company! If you know of anyone who would make a donation, please reach out to them. Donation collections start immediately. Donations should go to the church office. Should you generously choose to donate, please submit your item by Wednesday, October 8.

Here are some ideas: theme/gift baskets, services, i.e. babysitting & lawn work, gourmet meals, baked items, potted plants, assorted wines, experiences, sport memorabilia, artwork, tickets to events, etc. Ask your kids what they think would be fun to donate or see in the auction. Use your imagination and reach out to your contacts!

A few things to consider-donations should be new, a description and value of the item should be provided by the donor. Upon delivering your donation, a form will be available for you to complete. It will include all necessary details.

Have questions? Please contact:

Joan Maland Joan.henke@comcast.net

Lona Froyam lmfroyum@gmail.com

Pace Warfield cyf@valleyofpeace.org

Thank you in advance!

A most grateful CYF Committee

RALLY SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 7



Join us for **Rally Sunday on September 7** as we kick off a new year of ministry together! The morning begins with a **Children's Faith Formation Open House at 9:00am**, with light refreshments and the chance to meet our teachers.

Worship begins at **10:30am**, and during the service we'll share a special **Blessing of the Backpacks**. Everyone heading back to school—whether PreK, college, grad school, or beyond—is invited to bring their backpack and receive a blessing for the year ahead. After worship, we'll have a **bouncy house and a food truck** for fun and fellowship.

Come celebrate, connect, and start the fall with joy!

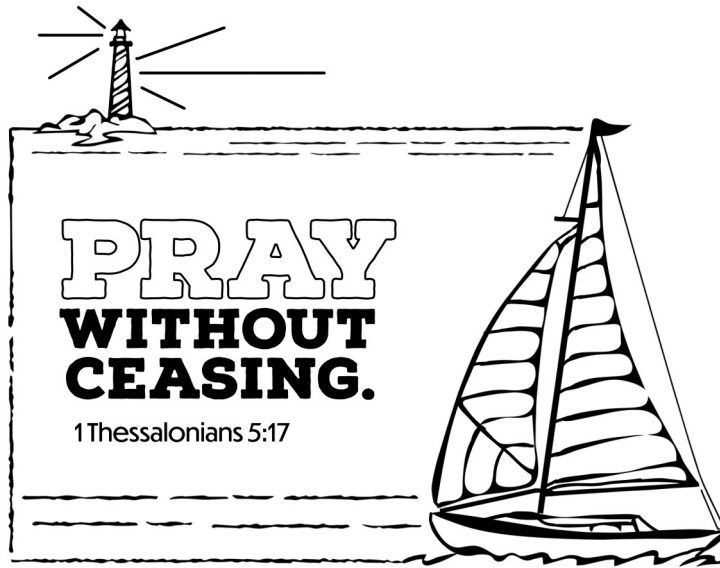
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation begins with an open house on September 7th—Rally Sunday—and our first day of class the following Sunday, September 14th. This year's theme is "Holy Questions" where learners are invited to play games, sing songs, make crafts, and have fun as they investigate questions about the Bible, God, themselves, and the world. Children's Faith Formation is for children in PreK through 5th grade.

Please register your child for Children's Faith Formation by going to the following link: <https://forms.gle/BWYMeiqpbNZRqi9e8>.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING



As the apostle Paul called the early Christians to pray without ceasing, 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 are meeting weekly for prayer. Beginning on **Wednesday, September 3rd we'll meet at 5:45 pm, 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.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The time has come for us to sign up to work 1-2-3 days for the 2025 Valley of Peace Habitat project. We will be working on a Rehab project in Roseville and need 10-12 volunteers per day. **The dates are September 17, 18 and 19.**

See the link in the below e-mail for the volunteer sign up hub. If you are in the Habitat system, it is pretty easy to sign up. Please let me know which days you have signed up for (I don't have access to the Habitat website to see for myself). If these days are no good for you, and you can't help this year, please let me know that as well.

It should be a good project. We will have more details when we get closer to the work day.

Thanks!

Paul Mikelson

Volunteer Sign-up: <https://vhub.at/valleyofpeace>



REBECCA CIRCLE TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

9:30am - 11:30am

The Bible Study is from the Fall 2025 issue of *Gather* magazine published by the Women of the ELCA.

BIBLE STUDY: Money, Stewardship & Generosity

In this three part Bible Study, we are exploring...

Money - What do we treasure?

Stewardship - How do we tend our treasure?

Generosity - A wideness in God's mercy

Session One: *Money - What do we treasure?*

From Genesis through Revelation, gold, silver and jewels serve as icons of God's goodness. And yet, the love of money is a powerful source of argument, lies and literal enslavement. King Solomon, famously chose wisdom over treasure. Jesus, leaning on his mother's values, teaches his disciples to dig deep for real treasure.

The Bible Study begins at 10:00am.

Come at 9:30am for social time

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)

Blessing of the Animals

You and your furry friends are invited to
this Special Zoom Service.

We gather near the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi,
honoring his love for all creatures and the
bond between humans and animals.

Sun, Oct 5 at
4:00 pm

Zoom Information
below or at
valleyofpeace.org

Meeting ID: 830 6868
9963
Passcode: 183295

All Are Welcome!
Bring your pets or
pictures of your
pets.



A celebration of love for all creatures

A WORD FROM YOUR RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

We have appreciated this reading in the past months. . .

*In a time of hate
Love is an act of resistance*

*In a time of fear
Faith is an act of resistance*

*In a time of misinformation
Education is an act of resistance*

*In a time of poor leadership
Community is an act of resistance*

*In a time like this
Joy is an act of resistance*

Loryn Brantz

Here at Valley of Peace, in this time...

We can show **Love** to all those around us, regardless of who they are
or what they think.

We can have **Faith** that God will guide us if we listen

We can **Learn** and know the truth and keep informed

We can be together in **Community** to serve our community around us

We can be filled with **Joy** at every small and beautiful good thing
that happens every day

Racial justice article con't...

We have a chance for **Community** in September!

In coming months, we plan to show more intentional fellowship and support to Tapestry Ministry in Richfield, a bilingual Spanish/English ELCA congregation. In recent months many of the Hispanic members of their church have become fearful. We can, however, be present with them by attending their Sunday afternoon services and dinners, be financially supportive, and pray for them. A number of VoP members attended a service at Tapestry last spring and found it to be uplifting and a wonderful fellowship of people.

We encourage our VoP members to join us in going to Tapestry on Sunday, September 21st. Tapestry is located at 7045 Lyndale Avenue So, Richfield, 55423. Worship is at 5:00, followed by a community meal.

We have a chance to **Learn** on October 23rd. House of Hope Lutheran, a Wildfire church, will be hosting Eric Roper, a Star Tribune reporter, who wrote an article and a podcast called, “Ghost of a Chance”, about his search for the human history of his newly purchased older home. The event will be in the evening at 7:30; look for more information in this issue of The VOICE. Plan to attend!

Join our Racial Justice Team! We meet next on Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m..

With prayers for a just world,

Barb Mikelson and the Racial Justice Team: Nancy Rogness, Laurie Eaton, Ann Dybvig, Marty Fergus, Skip Humphrey, Dale Froyum

PRISM

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- COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY -
CELEBRATING THE
POWER OF COMMUNITY

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
12-4PM

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JOIN PRISM FOR A DAY
FILLED WITH FUN:

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COMMUNITY VENDORS

MUSIC

FOOD

GAMES

Z

FALL PREVIEW SALE

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SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS OR
VISIT [PRISMMPLS.ORG/PRISMPALOOZA-2025](https://prismmpls.org/prismpalooza-2025)

INTERESTED IN TABLING OR SPONSORING?
EMAIL [AWEIS@PRISMMPLS.ORG](mailto:aweis@prismmpls.org)

-1220 Zane Ave N, Golden Valley, MN 55422-

SEPTEMBER ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sept 7: Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

In recent years, an enormous prophecy industry has marketed frightening images and interpretations of the book of Revelation, leaving many Christians intimidated by this amazing, often misunderstood book. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation ultimately is a **book of hope** that sustains those who are oppressed. In her book "The Rapture Exposed" and the bible study "Journeys Through Revelation", Dr. Barbara Rossing leads us to a renewed creation in which God comes to live with us on earth. **This hope-filled vision speaks to us in the midst of the urgent crises of our day.** Join us to discuss this vision of God's healing love for the world.



Sept 14: Rewriting Our Climate Change Story

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.

Sept 21: Reflections from the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Pastor Ashley will share reflections from Churchwide Assembly, where history was made. Together, we elected a new Presiding Bishop and Secretary, made decisions that impact our whole church—from congregations like Valley of Peace to our synods and churchwide ministries—and experienced the Spirit's movement through worship, conversation, and faithful debate. All of this took place while navigating the careful rhythms of parliamentary procedure! Join us to catch a glimpse of how our wider church lives out its call, and what it means for us right here at Valley of Peace.

Sept 28: Metta (Loving-Kindness) Meditation with Tom Ewald

We know we live in divided times, but how to respond from a spiritual practice standpoint? Metta meditation has the practitioner extend love in a guided meditation to ALL people, practicing a "universal friendliness" that is an amazing journey to a sense of peaceful with our neighbors, even now. According to Sharon Salzberg, whose meditations Tom has used with other churches, the fruits of this practice are "an open and fearless heart with an enhanced ability to manage conflict by taking things much less personally." No experience required!





Wildfire God's Work Our Hands Potluck & Service Event

Potluck ~ Global Refuge Presentation ~ Service Project
Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:00am
Faith Lilac Way Fellowship Hall

Enjoy:

- Bringing a breakfast or brunch item to share
- Fellowship with other Wildfire Church members
- A short presentation from Vicar Karla Leitzman on this Global Refuge ministry
- Working together assembling Community Garden Neighbor Kits



Community Garden Neighbor Kit

These kits will include:



Gardening Gloves



Apron



Watering Can



Hat



Sunscreen

Wildfire Talks: Ghost of a Chance

Thursday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
House of Hope Fellowship Hall



ABOUT THIS PODCAST

When *Star Tribune* reporter Eric Roper buys a lovely 113-year-old house in Minneapolis, he wants to find out everything he can about its history. But he quickly becomes obsessed with one couple who owned the house 100 years ago. Harry and Clementine Robinson send him down a surprising rabbit hole into an incredible history he never heard before. As he artfully and meticulously pieces together the remarkable story of their lives, we find out what the Robinsons reveal about a history of race in Minneapolis — the city that became ground zero for an unprecedented global racial reckoning.

HOWTO FIND IT

Listen and subscribe anywhere you get your podcasts, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Amazon.

You can use this QR code or go to startribune.com/ghostofachance to get to the project landing page. There, you can listen to the episodes, check out discussion guides and see photos and historical documents related to this story.



Come meet *Star Tribune's* Eric Roper & Melissa Townsend!
House of Hope Lutheran Church
4800 Boone Ave
New Hope, MN 55428

Dear Members of Valley of Peace Lutheran Church,

At Valley of Peace, we believe that every person who walks through our doors should feel safe, seen, and deeply loved. As a congregation that is Reconciling in Christ (RIC) and committed to the ongoing work of racial justice, we understand that being a welcoming community is not only about what we say, it is about how we show up in action, policy, and presence.

In that spirit, we have begun the work of forming a Rapid Response Team to help ensure the safety and dignity of all who worship, work, and gather in our building. This team will help us respond thoughtfully and consistently in situations where the presence or actions of outside authorities and individuals (such as protestors or Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Homeland Security) may threaten the trust and sanctuary we seek to provide.

Here are a few important updates and commitments we are putting into practice as part of this effort beginning on Sunday, September 7:

- Training will be provided for staff, leaders, and lead ushers (and other members who would like to participate) to help respond with compassion, legal awareness, and clarity in high-stakes situations.
- Signage will be placed throughout the building to clearly identify safe spaces where only authorized individuals are permitted. These are spaces where those seeking refuge can find protection and peace.
- If federal agents, including ICE or Homeland Security, come to our building, we will require a warrant signed by a judge before any access is granted. This is both a legal right and a moral responsibility to protect those who may be vulnerable.
- In our worship space, the last two rows of seating on both sides will not be included on the live stream, offering a space for those who wish to worship freely without their presence being broadcast publicly.

letter con't on p. 21

letter con't from p. 20

This work is not about fear. It is about faith. It is about creating a space where everyone, regardless of race, immigration status, gender identity, or circumstances, knows they are safe and that their dignity is sacred. Jesus taught us to love our neighbor, to stand with the oppressed, and to welcome the stranger. This is one of the ways we are living out that call in real and practical ways.

We will continue to share updates as this work unfolds, and we invite your prayers and support. More information will be shared at Adult Faith Formation this fall.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ashley Osborn

VALLEY OF PEACE IS HOSTING A

FREE WILL SALE

OCTOBER 2 - 5

Valley of Peace Members will be holding a Free Will Sale of items no longer needed. These items are primarily from All God's Children and the cleaning out of the Sunday School Office and Music office. Sale items will include furniture, toys, office supplies, and other miscellaneous items.

The sale will take place in the Fellowship Hall, with set up on Thursday, October 2 and Friday, October 3. On Friday afternoon, October 3, the sale will open first to AGC families and staff. It will then be open to Valley of Peace members and the community on Saturday, October 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We encourage you to share this information with schools, churches, and others who may be interested. Volunteer opportunities will also be available throughout the weekend—more details to come.



HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON

The need for non-perishable food remains high all throughout the year, so filling the grocery cart in our lower level remains a priority! Here is a list of what you might look for the next time you go shopping:

* **Canned Goods:** Canned fruits, vegetables, beans, meats (like tuna and chicken), soups, stews, and pasta sauces.

* **Dried Goods:** Pasta, rice, grains (like oats), dried beans, cereals, granola, crackers, and dried fruit and vegetables.

* **Protein Sources:** Peanut butter, other nut butters, nuts and seeds, and jerky.

* **Pantry Staples:** Sugar, salt, pepper, spices, cooking oils, and powdered milk.

* **Sweeteners:** Honey and syrup.

* **Beverages:** Bottled water, juices, and powdered drink mixes.

* **Baking & Other Items:** Pancake mix, cake mix, and coffee.





SEPTEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Birthdays:

Jerry Munsterman, 9/1; Dale Froyum, 9/3; TJ Osborn, 9/3; Jason Broin, 9/4; Rusty Greenlund, 9/5; Oliver Schiebe, 9/6; Gabe Blood, 9/7; Claudia Aronsohn, 9/11; Sally Daniels Herron, 9/12; Kathy Boesen, 9/13; Christy Flikke, 9/15; Michael Schauer, 9/18; Heidi Hovde, 9/19; Steve Collin, 9/21; Nancy Rogness, 9/22; Dakota Crofoot, 9/23; Karissa Crofoot, 9/23; Ethan Ahlbrecht, 9/23; Tara Kuckkan, 9/25; Eleanor Gale, 9/25; Julia Blood, 9/26; Dee Kendall, 9/27; Shane Flikke, 9/27; Adam Cook, 9/28; Patty Holmstrom, 9/29; Tom Ewald, 9/29; Lynn Schneider, 9/30

Anniversaries

Kris and Brian Ahlbrecht, 9/2, their 25th; Christine and Dan Weatherman, 9/3, their 37th; Carol and Scott Johannes, 9/5, their 38th; Pam and Wes Syverson, 9/6, their 56th; Angela and Jim Crofoot, 9/12, their 33rd; Margaret and Steve Wallace, 9/14, their 23rd; Abby and Matt Stetler, 9/14, their 6th; Kacey and Dustin Laurent, 9/17, their 14th; Janet and Doug Stepanek, 9/21, their 41st; Deb and Pete Mikelson, 9/26, their 21st; Pam and Bob Gullick, 9/29, their 46th

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

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(she/her/hers)

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

