

THE VOICE November 2025

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

A Word from Pastor Ashley

Merry Halloween-Thanksgiving-New Year!

I know that Christmas is still two months away and we still have several weeks until Thanksgiving, but you wouldn't be able to tell this by walking into any department store. Each year about this time, you can find anything from Halloween Candy to Christmas Lights to Thanksgiving Décor and New Year's party hats.

And to be honest, sometimes in the church this time of year call feel like all of the holidays are happening at once. As we prepare for Reformation Sunday, we are also planning the details of the Advent season. And we do this because in the church we want to create a sacred space to honor all of the holidays and blessings that this season can bring.

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...

It is a busy time of year, and yet each holiday holds something different and something special. I have included information about the following worship services in the next two months. In the busyness of this season I pray that you are able to join us as we celebrate and remember God's presence in every season of our lives.

Blessings to you this season and always,
Pastor Ashley

All Saints Sunday: On Sunday, November 2 in worship we will gather to give thanks to God that Christ calls us all saints. We will remember the saints who have died in the past year and who have been baptized. All worshippers will have an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of the saints.

Hanging of the Greens: We will prepare our sanctuary space for Advent and Christmas after worship on Sunday, November 23.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship: On Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 pm we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving. We will end our time together by sharing in the gift of fellowship and pie.

Advent: Our season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. Each Sunday we will light a candle that is part of our Advent Wreath as we prepare for the birth of Christ. The Children's Christmas Program will be during worship on Sunday, December 7 and the Christmas Music Celebration will be during worship on Sunday, December 14.

Longest Night of the Year: On Sunday, December 21, we will gather at 5:00 pm for a service of healing and remembrance. This is a reflective worship service that creates a space for those who grieve and struggle around the Christmas season. We gather on the longest night of the year and hold onto the hopeful light of Christ that warms our hearts and souls.

Christmas Eve: Our Christmas Eve service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. This will be a traditional service with Holy Communion and the Lighting of Candles.

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

On Sunday, October 26 as a part of the Special Congregational meeting, the VoP Lower Level Improvement Team unanimously recommended to the congregation that we engage D.J. Kranz Company as our General Contractor for VoP's renovation project and that we accept their proposed bid for the fixed price contract.

Additionally the Team recommended that we engage Boelter Food Service Equipment and Supply as the contractor for purchasing and installation of all kitchen equipment and appliances for the renovated kitchen.

The recommendation passed unanimously...the plan is that we're going to have a new kitchen (and other improvements!) by Palm Sunday! So exciting!



A photograph of a church interior. The background features a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with several long, narrow, illuminated stained glass windows. Below the ceiling, there are more colorful stained glass windows. In the foreground, a wooden altar is visible, covered with a green and blue patterned cloth. The altar is flanked by red and blue curtains. The overall lighting is warm and inviting.

Thank You

THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH
WORK DONE ALL AROUND
OUR CHURCH BUILDING.
SOME OF THIS WORK IS
EASILY SEEN AND MUCH OF
THIS WORK IS UNSEEN.
THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE
VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE
CARING FOR OUR SPACE!!

MUSIC UPDATES!

1. Choir is ALWAYS open to join! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in fellowship hall.
2. If you are not able to be a full time member of choir and would like the opportunity to sing with choir for the Music Celebration (formerly known as the Cantata) or for Christmas Eve, we are starting to learn the music. Please feel free to join us for the Christmas season.
3. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the purple hymnal All Creation Sings for your own use, or to have at home, please let Christine Weatherman know by November 30. Cost is \$16 a copy.



Mission of the Month

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE!

Collecting toys and gifts for
PRISM's Holiday Toy Shoppe!

Toys and gifts for any age child are welcome,
but **especially needed are gifts for teens**, such as –

Gaming headphones and keyboards

Ear buds

Make-up kits

Fuzzy socks

Art supplies

\$25 gift cards

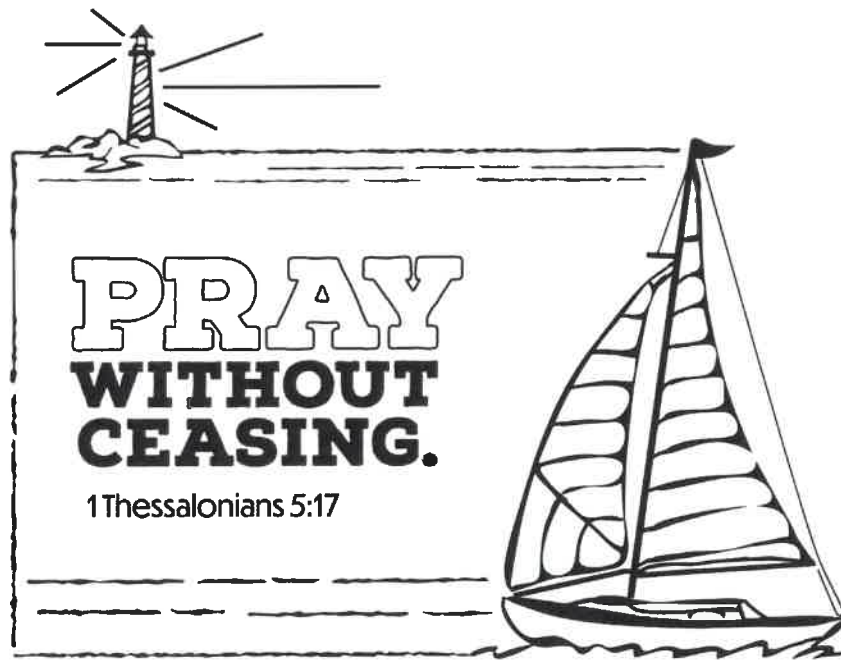
Drop your donations off at our

Valley of Peace Giving Center!

Deadline for donations is **November 30!**

It's the holiday season – let's be generous!

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...5:45 pm on Wednesdays.

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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Care Packages

The youth will be sending out care packages in mid November. If you have a college or graduate student in your family or a military member that would like to receive a care package, please email Pace (cyf@valleyofpeace.org) their address and name so we can include them on the list. **Please let Pace know the address and name by November 14th.**



Middle and High School Youth Service Project

Middle and High School Youth will meet for a service project following confirmation on Wednesday, November 19th, from 7:30-8:15pm. We will be packing Care Packages and share in some fun and fellowship!

Save the Date--Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 7th. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 6th from 10:00am-1:00pm.

• ISAIAH & FAITH IN MINNESOTA PRESENT •

A LIGHT IN THE STORM

AGENDA LAUNCH & ANTI-AUTHORITARIANISM STRATEGY TRAINING



**SATURDAY
DEC. 13**

12PM - 6PM

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION
CENTER, 1301 2ND AVE S
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

THOUSANDS OF ISAIAH AND FAITH IN MINNESOTA LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE WILL COME TOGETHER TO LAUNCH OUR AGENDA THROUGH 2027 AND PLAN A PATH IN THIS MOMENT TO PROTECT OUR STATE, NEIGHBORS, AND FAMILIES IN THE FACE OF RISING AUTHORITARIANISM. TOGETHER WE ARE GOING TO MAKE MINNESOTA A PLACE WHERE FAMILIES ACROSS RACE, PLACE, AND RELIGION CAN THRIVE.



 **ISAIAH**

 **Faith in
Minnesota**

SCAN TO REGISTER
OR VISIT [BIT.LY/ISAIAH2023](https://bit.ly/ISAIAH2023)

UPCOMING ISALAH CONVENTION

A group of us here at VOP, in partnership with other ISALAH faith churches and organizations, have been working with local elected leaders on how to protect people from harmful federal actions. We invite you, and need you, to join us in the next step which is the ISALAH Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center on December 13. Governor Walz will be addressing the convention! **See the flyer on page 10** for more information and the registration link.

Together we have people power and we can create a more positive future grounded in what God calls us to do - feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger.

Catch Dale or Lona at church, call or text at 651-260-7602 or email at lmfroyum@gmail.com for questions or help registering.



REBECCA CIRCLE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
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 Three: Generosity - A Wideness in God's Mercy

God loves a cheerful giver, because our cheer in giving reflects God's own cheerful mercies. Can the biblical practice of gleaning be considered a class in Generosity 101? We will consider the enemies of generosity: Pharaoh, the stingy boss, and the "religion" of Mammonism. Finally we will turn to the little-noticed women who were generous with Jesus and the wild generosity of the first Christian churches.

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)

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.



A WORD FROM YOUR RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Tapestry is one of three mission development congregations that are ministries of the Minneapolis Area Synod. It serves (“accompanies”) Latino families living in and around Richfield and “shares the love of Jesus through food, music and education.” Valley of Peace supports Tapestry both financially and by our members occasionally attending their Sunday service, with worship at 5:00 p.m. followed at 6:00 p.m. by a meal and conversation.

Our next opportunity to participate in Tapestry’s worship/meal is Sunday, November 9. Tapestry is hosted by Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale Ave So, Richfield, MN 55423.

Hope to see you there,

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



CEREAL COLLECTION

The Children's Faith Formation youth will be participating in a month long food drive. Because so many of our neighbors will be struggling to afford to put food on their tables, our youth will be doing what we can to help during the month of November. Each Sunday they will bring a box of their favorite cereal. Our goal will be to fill up the pumpkin box to donate to PRISM.



Deck the Halls!

We know. . . the leaves have not even all fallen yet, but it is time to plan our decorating for **Advent** and **Christmas** at Valley of Peace! Come and join in on **Sunday, November 23**, as we put up the wreaths, garlands and trees to decorate our beautiful church!

We will meet right after church and hopefully finish up within an hour or so. We'll have some snacks available to keep you energized!

Adults and families are all welcome to help with this joyful task!

Thank you!

Worship Arts Team

NOVEMBER ADULT FAITH FORMATION

November 2: Bible Study on the Book of Revelation (Part 3)

Since the earliest times, Christians have sung the songs of Revelation in their communion liturgy and hymns-songs such as “Holy! Holy! Holy!, Lord God Almighty!” and “Worthy is the Lamb” (Revelation 5:12). The singing begins in Chapters 4 and 5, when John journeys up into heaven. As we journey with him, we will see the throne of God and those who worship God. There is a surprise in this journey as God sends a lamb to save us, rather than a mighty lion. Jesus offers a model of “Lamb Power” very different from the power structures of the dominant culture.

November 9: The Historical Jesus, with Paul Mikhelson

There are very few references to Jesus in historical records (like only one), which means that the knowledge we have of him and his ministry are based on stories. So what was Jesus really like? Paul Mikhelson will present some logical assumptions based on what we know about Israel and its history in the first century CE. You will have lots to think about!

November 16: Our current VoP Response to Potential ICE Encounters

What would we do if ICE showed up at VoP? Now that the longstanding policy limiting U.S. immigration enforcement in churches and other sensitive locations has been rescinded, churches need to be prepared to face difficult situations. Ann Dybvig and Nancy Rogness will share ACLU “Know Your Rights” information and our Council-approved VoP response protocol as well as discuss their hope for training a VoP rapid response team.

November 23: Full Plate Month of Action with Lona and Dale Froyum

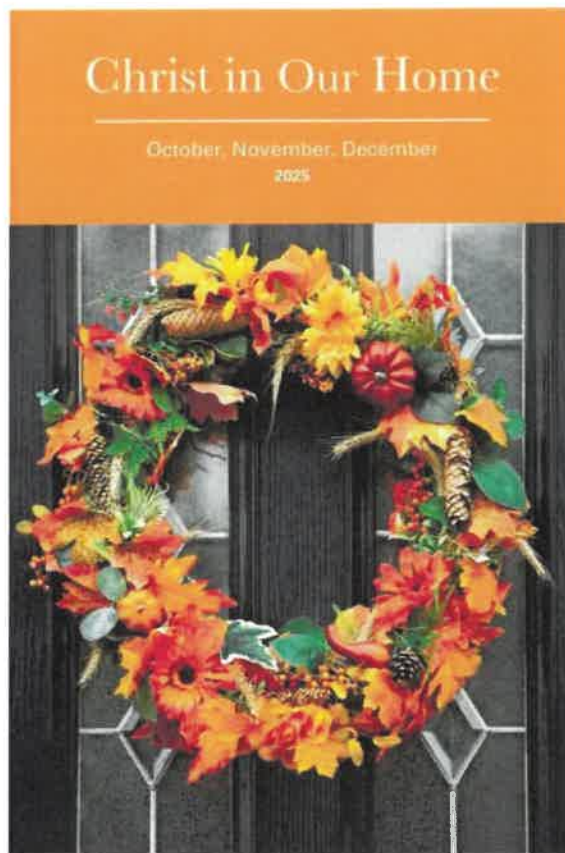
Even more food insufficiency will be experienced by our neighbors due to unsustainable strain on food shelves because of SNAP cuts going into effect on November 1. We will be using updated statistics proved by ISALAH research. Our primary goal is to convey the urgency of the current and impending food crisis and together with other faith communities, we can make Minnesota a #FullPlateState!

November 30: No Adult Faith Formation! Thanksgiving Weekend!

Join us at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room! The coffee is always on!

CHRIST IN OUR HOME

We're delighted to share that Valley of Peace member Laurie Eaton is one of the writers for this edition of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional! Laurie's reflections will be featured from November 11–20. We celebrate her gifts of faith and writing and invite you to follow along during those days for her thoughtful contributions. You can pick up a copy of the Christ in Our Home devotion at the Welcome Center.



NOVEMBER QUESTION OR TWO!



Question or 2 will meet **November 8 at 4:30 PM**. We meet at [Pryes Brewing Company](#), located at: 1401 West River Road N in Minneapolis. Come join us and bring a question!



It has been just over a year since we installed the bright yellow Blessings Box on the Bridgeway here at church. Your Hospitality Team is pleased to let you know that items in the Box are getting taken! And, folks are also leaving items in the Box...how generous is that?!

As the weather begins to get colder, we need to pay more attention to items we put in the box. For example, cans of soup or other things that freeze are no longer a good idea! What could we use more of? By far, those little boxes of cereal go very quickly. We could also use crackers, pasta, rice, mashed potato flakes and breakfast/granola bars. Finally, things like feminine hygiene products and tooth brushes are always needed.

Thanks to some very talented and generous knitters/crocheters, we do not need things like scarves and hats. I will let you know if that changes. If you can contribute things for the Box, please leave them in the church office. Thank you so very much!

Sally Daniels Herron
Chair, Hospitality Team





NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Birthdays:

Jim Jasper, 11/1; Bob Gullick, 11/6; Bob Gerber, 11/7;
Medori Dabe, 11/10; Ella Wiltzius, 11/10; Chad Boesen, 11/11;
Nathan Brandt, 11/11; Peter Johnson, 11/12; Kelsey Pierson, 11/12;
Dan Weatherman, 11/12; Alex Blood, 11/14; Jan Stepanek, 11/15;
Pat Hoyt, 11/17; Jake Kendall, 11/17; Dan Johnson, 11/20;
Jon Daniels, 11/21; Rolf Nelson, 11/23; Carolyn Ekin, 11/26;
Rudi Martignacco, 11/29

Anniversaries

Melissa and Matt Dellwo, 11/4, their 14th; Laura Pockl and Chad
Schneider, 11/12, their 9th; Sally Daniels Herron and John Herron,
11/26, their 14th; Darcie Rodman and Chuck Rudolph, 11/28, their 27th

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.

Prayer requests are listed with permission.

*If you would like to be included in the prayers please contact the church
office. Names will be included for 4 weeks unless otherwise asked for.*

Confidential prayer support is also available.

Valley of Peace Staff

Pastor

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

