



THE VOICE December 2025

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

A Word from Pastor Ashley

We will enter the Advent Season on Sunday, November 30. As we enter this Advent season, our small and mighty church community will gather once again around the promises that shape our faith: hope, peace, joy and love. These are not just candlelit words we speak on Sunday mornings, they are grounding truths we cling to, especially when the world feels heavy or uncertain.

Advent invites us to wait with intention. Not a passive waiting, but a hopeful leaning toward the God who draws near. In difficult seasons, this waiting becomes even more sacred. Each week's worship offers space to breathe, to reconnect, and to remember that we do not carry any of this alone.

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...

I invite you to review our Advent & Christmas Worship Services included in this Newsletter and in upcoming bulletins. All of these worship services hold very meaningful and sacred space for the season of Advent, including the joy of the Children's Christmas Program on December 7 and the beauty of our Christmas Music Celebration on December 14. I also encourage you to consider attending our Longest Night Worship Service, which will be held on the actual longest night of the year, December 21 at 5:00 pm. This service is a gentle, healing space for those carrying grief, worry, or weariness. And we will gather on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm to welcome the Christ child with wonder and gratitude.

Let the practice and rhythm of Advent worship services hold you this year. Let the growing light remind you that God is already at work in the shadows. And let us walk this journey of faith together, trusting that love has the final word.

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.

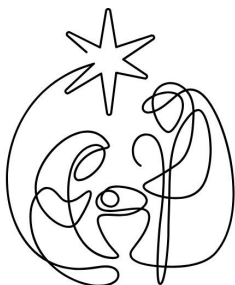
VALLEY OF PEACE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.



Advent & Christmas

WORSHIP WITH VALLEY OF PEACE

SUNDAY, NOV 30

10:15 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent Worship with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DEC 7

10:15 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent Worship with Children's Christmas Program and Holy Communion. After worship, our Cookie & Lefse Sale benefiting Cherish All Children

SUNDAY, DEC 14

10:15 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent Worship with our Christmas Music Celebration led by the Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, DEC 21

10:15 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DEC 21

5:00 P.M.

Longest Night Worship Service, a quiet and reflective service of prayer, scripture, and music

WEDNESDAY, DEC 24

4:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Worship including Holy Communion and candlelighting. Musical prelude begins at 3:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC 28

10:15 A.M.

A Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

All are welcome.

VALLEY OF PEACE
4735 BASSETT CREEK DRIVE
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55422
763-588-4611
WWW.VALLEYOFPEACE.ORG



WINTER WEATHER CLOSING INFORMATION

As we enter the winter months, we want to be sure everyone stays safe and informed when weather impacts our gatherings at Valley of Peace.

Sunday Worship

If winter weather makes travel unsafe for Sunday worship, information about cancellations or schedule changes will be shared on our Valley of Peace Facebook Page and sent by e-mail to all congregation members. We will also make every effort to post closing information on KARE 11. There will be a worship service shared on our YouTube page and this information will be shared in the e-mail.

Weekday Office Hours & Programming

During the week, Valley of Peace follows the weather policy of All God's Children Discovery Center (AGC), which follows the Robbinsdale School District for weather closings.

If Robbinsdale closes due to winter weather, AGC and Valley of Peace will also close. This also means that all church related meetings and activities are cancelled for the entire day and evening.

On extremely cold days, when Robbinsdale closes, AGC will open with a two-hour delay, and Valley of Peace staff and office hours will follow that schedule as well.

Thank you for your understanding as we stay safe and connected through the winter season.

Longest Night Worship Service

Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 pm
Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

This worship service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle. This service provides a safe space of calm, quiet, and healing.

Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.

May you find peace on your journey.

Please share this information with loved ones who may also long for this service.

We will gather in the sanctuary.

This service will not be live-streamed.

Reception to follow in the Fireside Room.



valley of peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for a new work opportunity? Or do you know someone else who is?

Here are the job postings for the All God's C'hildren Discovery Center where applications can be made/resumes sent in.

These are the positions that are open:

Infant Assistant (11:00-5:30)

After-School Toddler Support Aide (3/3:30-5:30)

Toddler Hourly Lead 7:30-4:00 (or 7:30-12:30 / 12:00-4:00)

Click on the links below for more details:

<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/3668917>

<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/3736190>



SYNOD YOUTH CHOIR

Last year was the first ever Synod Youth Choir. 50 Youth participants from 17 different Lutheran congregations grew in relationship with one another, as budding musicians, and in their faith! We are so excited to announce we are partnering with the Synod for a **second season of the Synod Youth Choir**.

How it works

Youth from participating congregations will gather once a month from January through April 2026 to learn songs, connect with other young people from Lutheran congregations, and prepare to sing together at the Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 2nd @ 9am.

Rehearsal Schedule: 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month (January–April: 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25).

Locations: Rehearsals will rotate among four congregations within the Synod (locations announced soon).

Who is invited: All young people ages 5–18, regardless of musical experience, are welcome! Come make music, make friends, and grow in faith together.

Two Public Singing Engagements:

May 2 2026 - The Synod Assembly Saturday Worship – 9:00 a.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (14501 Nowthen Blvd NW, Ramsey, MN 55303)

May 17, 2026 - End-of-Year Concert

Register by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/372yp7up>

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



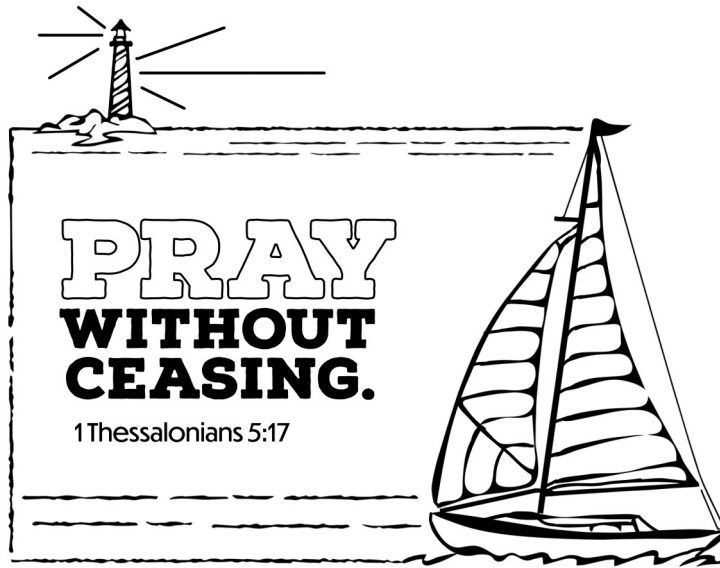
There is a **Middle and High School Youth Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 7th following church. This will include a white elephant gift exchange (gifts of \$10 or less--and no worries if your youth can't bring a gift or forgets, there will be extras!) as well as pizza, games, and more. We will meet in the Fireside Room following the 10:15am worship service.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DRESS REHEARSAL

The children and youth of Valley of Peace are excited to present the 2025 Christmas Pageant: "The Origin of Silent Night." This will take place during the 10:15am worship service on December 7th.

If you have a child or youth interested in being part of the pageant, **please have them attend the dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 6th** from 10:00am-1:00pm in the church sanctuary. This is a "show-up and get a part" style pageant, so if you want your child to participate please have them attend the dress rehearsal. Lunch will be served. If your child would like music ahead of time for the Christmas Pageant, please contact Christine Weatherman for the music: music@valleyofpeace.org

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 **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.



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE VALLEY OF PEACE & OUR SAVIOUR'S**

Women's Retreat

February 20 - 22, 2026

DUNROVIN RETREAT CENTER

REGISTRATION COMING IN EARLY JANUARY

REBECCA CIRCLE & CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

4th floor Party Room at South Wirth Apartments
501 Theodore Wirth Parkway in Golden Valley

Schedule:

9:30am Coffee & social time

10:00am Devotional from *Gather Magazine*

11:30am Christmas Luncheon - Cost \$10

Devotional

“Practicing Advent Imagination”

We cannot build a new future that we cannot imagine. The long nights of Advent gift us with time to dream. This study will offer us ways of imagining God’s future for us and all creation through the dreams of Joseph, the Three Wise Men and Isaiah.

RSVP by December 5th

Elaine Lofquist - em.lofquist@comcast.net
763-432-7966 (Home) or 612-816-5591 (Cell)

A greeter will be in the lobby to welcome you and direct you to the meeting.
Whether you come monthly or occasionally, you are always welcome.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF E-MAIL SCAMS

From time to time, members of Valley of Peace received fraudulent e-mails from people pretending to be me. Please always double-check the sender's address before responding. Any legitimate message from me will come from aosborn@valleyofpeace.org

I will never ask for gift cards, wire transfers, or urgent financial help by e-mail.

If you ever receive a message that seems suspicious, please do not respond. Instead, feel free to call the church office or contact me directly to verify.

You can also report suspicious e-mails to the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov

Thank you for helping keep our community safe and connected.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ashley

MUSIC UPDATES

Come join us on Jan 4 for One and Done Choir! All are welcome. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. Looking forward to seeing you!!!

If you are interested in purchasing an All Creation Sings hymnal for your own use, let Christine know.

music@valleyofpeace.org They are \$16.

If you worship online and would like to have copies of our hymnals at your home, please let Christine know.



REJOICE AND RENEW CAMPAIGN UPDATE

With a recent additional pledge from one of our members, we are now only \$4,185 from reaching our highest target for the campaign: \$1.3 million!! Won't you help us get there? An extra gift at year end would make us very happy. Plus, when we reach that \$1.3 million goal, one of our donors will give us the second half of their original pledge: \$50,000!!!

Rejoice and Renew Pledge cards are in the plastic holders on the back of the Sanctuary chairs. You could fill one out and put it in the offering plate to help us reach our goal. Or you could talk with one of our Campaign Continuation Committee members: Pastor Ashley, Lauren Pockl, Diane Hinderlie or Paul Mikelson.

QUESTION OR TWO

Come join us at the Question or 2 Christmas Party, **December 6th.**

We meet at Diane Hinderlie's party room, 4600 - 41 Ave. N. in Robbinsdale at 4:30 PM..

Bring your beverage and a snack or food item to share. Everyone is welcome!



The 11th Annual
**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
HOLIDAY WEEKEND OF SERVICE**

VOICES OF WISDOM
Pathways to Peace

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026
2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
7001 GOLDEN VALLEY RD.
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427

For volunteer inquiries or sponsorship opportunities, reach out to
hello@sweetpotatocomfortpie.org

This year, we celebrate educators, visionaries, and community members. Through live music, heartfelt awards, shared stories, and the comforting gift of pie, we will honor the wisdom that paves the way for peace in our communities.

THE WEEKEND OF SERVICE:
GROUP BAKING: JANUARY 17
PIE DELIVERY: JANUARY 18-19

REGISTER NOW



ASL Interpreted Event

FREE TO ATTEND - RSVP REQUIRED

For more information visit:
sweetpotatocomfortpie.org/events

DECEMBER ADULT FAITH FORMATION

December 7 – Study of the Book of Revelation (Part 4) Laurie Eaton

With the opening of the seven seals in Revelation 6, we enter some of the toughest terrain of the entire book – the terrifying middle chapters (Revelation 6-18). We'll explore how to approach the images created by the opening of the first six seals. To reach the hope at the end of the journey in Revelation, we must first experience great conflict and judgment. Like an urgent wake-up call, the visions of the opening of the seals deliver God's diagnosis of the evils of the Roman Empire. They also give the assurance that the empire's reign of violence soon will come to an end. These visions speak to us today, helping to unveil the toxic aspects of our own culture. The good news is that the witness of God's people truly makes a difference. God hears the cries of all victims who suffer, and God answers them.

You will learn plenty even if you haven't attended previous studies.

December 14 - Grow Old on Purpose (Part 2)

Everyone is getting old; not everyone is growing old. But the path of purposeful aging is accessible to all. And it's fundamental to health, happiness, and longevity.

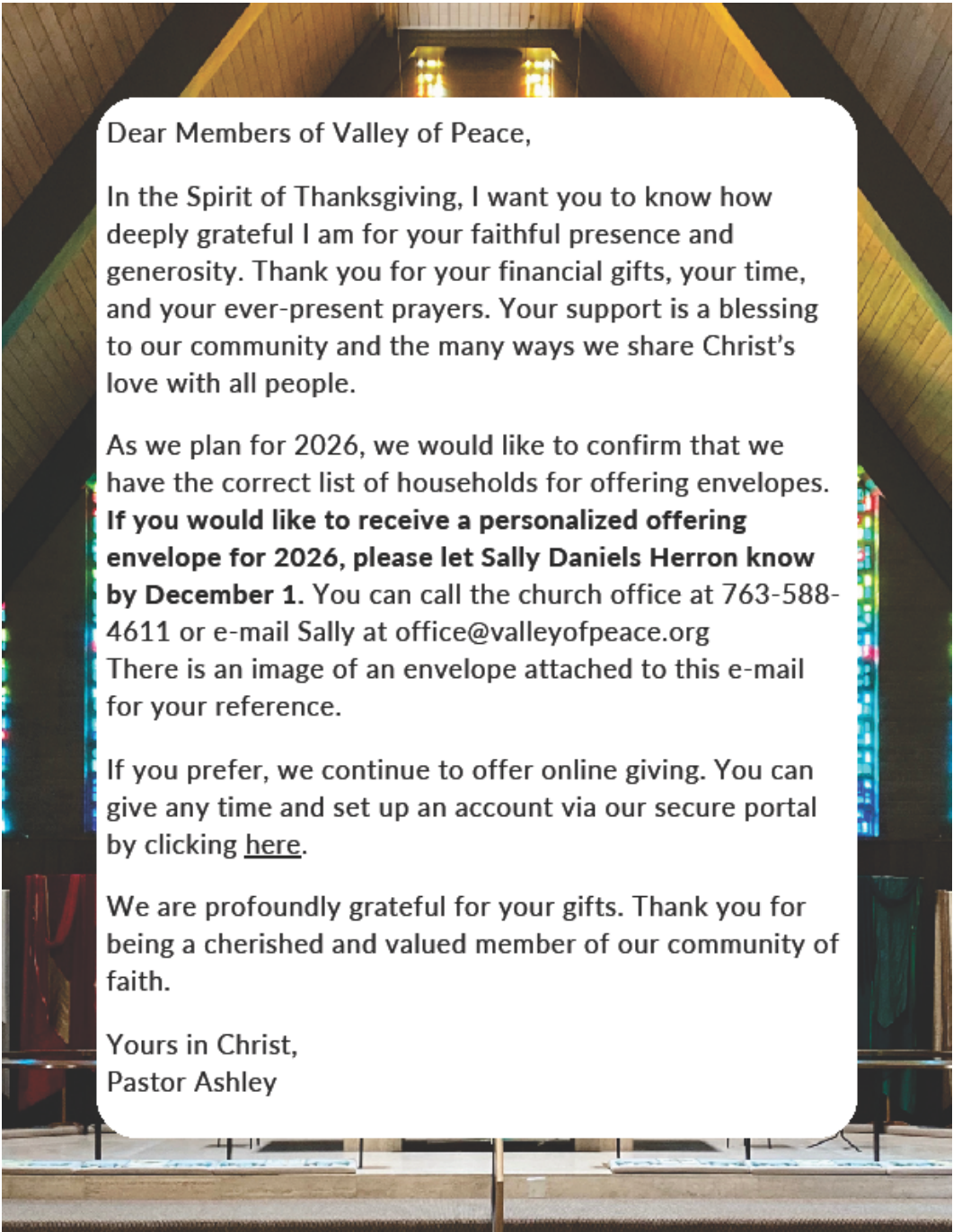
Ideas from the book "Who Do You Want to Be When You Grow Old?" by Richard Leider and David Shapiro will guide us as we discuss growing whole through developing a sense of purpose in later life.

You do not have to be old or have read the book to participate and learn.

December 21 – Game Day!

Join us for some non-threatening stress free games to help get to know each other better. Please send "Two Truths and a Lie" to jonruthlarson@gmail.com before December 21. We will not play a Christmas Trivia game again this year since everyone knows that Dottie's team always wins.

December 28 - No Adult Faith Formation



Dear Members of Valley of Peace,

In the Spirit of Thanksgiving, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for your faithful presence and generosity. Thank you for your financial gifts, your time, and your ever-present prayers. Your support is a blessing to our community and the many ways we share Christ's love with all people.

As we plan for 2026, we would like to confirm that we have the correct list of households for offering envelopes. **If you would like to receive a personalized offering envelope for 2026, please let Sally Daniels Herron know by December 1.** You can call the church office at 763-588-4611 or e-mail Sally at office@valleyofpeace.org. There is an image of an envelope attached to this e-mail for your reference.

If you prefer, we continue to offer online giving. You can give any time and set up an account via our secure portal by clicking [here](#).

We are profoundly grateful for your gifts. Thank you for being a cherished and valued member of our community of faith.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ashley



CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Valley of Peace Church Office hours will be adjusted for
Christmas & New Year's.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

Monday, December 22: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24: AGC & VOP Office Closed - Worship at 4:00 pm

Thursday, December 25: AGC & VOP Office Closed

Friday, December 26: AGC & VOP Office Closed

Monday, December 29: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 30: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 31: VOP Office Closed

Thursday, January 1: AGC & VOP Office Closed

Friday, January 2: AGC & VOP Office Closed



ITEMS NEEDED AT NEAR FOOD SHELF:

PEANUT BUTTER
JELLY / JAM
COLD / HOT CEREAL
FLOUR
SUGAR
COOKING OIL
WHITE / BROWN RICE
CANNED SOUPS

BOXED / CANNED MEALS
PASTA
PASTA SAUCE
COFFEE / TEA
CANNED FRUITS / VEGETABLES
CANNED PROTEIN (TUNA, CHICKEN, etc.)
PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP
BABY FOOD

NON-FOOD ITEMS:

BAR SOAP
LAUNDRY SOAP
DISH SOAP
PAPER TOWELS / TISSUES
TOILET PAPER
DEODORANT

SHAMPOO / CONDITIONER
TOOTH BRUSHES / TOOTHPASTE
DIAPERS / PULL-UPS
BABY WIPES
FEMININE PRODUCTS
ADULT INCONTINENCE PRODUCTS



***Your financial support
makes it possible to provide
fresh food and other
essentials for our community!***

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NEAR FOOD SHELF



Holiday Benefit Concert

Featuring: Brooklyn Big Band

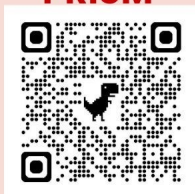
Sunday, December 7, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Elim Lutheran Church, 3978 W. Broadway, Robbinsdale MN

Support our local food shelves, PRISM and NEAR.

**Please bring non-perishable food items,
cash or check,
or scan the QR code to donate.**

PRISM



NEAR



Admission is free! Coffee and cookies will be available



Event sponsored by Wildfire Churches

VALLEY OF PEACE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Here are some images of before and after in the boiler room and kitchen demo.

Not included in these images are the lower-level landscaping, garbage enclosures, sanctuary lights, preschool bathrooms & AGC renovations, and new music office and table and chairs storage area.

Thank you to all the folks who have helped prepare these spaces for construction!

I also invite you to review the Rejoice & Renew Campaign Update from Paul Mikelson. Please note that we are only \$4,185 away from reaching our \$1,3000,000 goal!

Thank you!



December Mission of the Month

Cherish All Children Cookie and Lefse Sale!

Sunday: 12/7/24



Fundraiser: Free Will Donations!



DECEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Birthdays:

Carol Johannes, 12/2; Pete Mikelson, 12/2; Jennifer Gale, 12/5;
 Abbey Wiltzius, 12/6; Darcie Rodman, 12/10; Connor Wallace, 12/11;
 Lynn Briel, 12/12; Lauren Pockl, 12/12; Joan Maland, 12/15;
 Linda Cherra, 12/16; Jamie Brummel, 12/18; Kristi Collin, 12/18;
 Anita Anderson, 12/21; Thomas Gale, 12/22; Max Balint, 12/23;
 Becca Anderson, 12/24

Anniversaries:

Jim Jasper and Laurie Eaton, 12/1, their 13th; Keila and Mark DiPietro,
 12/13, their 10th; Darlene and Dean Lamker, 12/21, their 57th;
 Peter Siewert and Nancy Rogness, 12/29, their 36th;
 Peter Johnson and Jan Oelfe, 12/30, their 4th;
 Joan and Bob Maland, 12/31, their 20th

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)

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)

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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.

