



Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 20, 2026 - Sunday, September 27, 2026

Sunday, September 20

9:00 am Adult Faith Formation
 9:00 am Children's Faith Formation
 10:15 am Worship
 11:30 am Deepening the Valley:
 Worship Volunteers
 11:30 am Goza Fest Planning Meeting

Monday, September 21

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 22

5:30 pm Emergency Preparedness Task Force Mtg.

Wednesday, September 23

3:00 pm VOP Staff Meeting
 5:30 pm Pray Without Ceasing
 6:30 pm Confirmation
 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24

10:00 am Text Study (Genesis 39:1-23)
 7:00 pm ISAIAH Strategy Session
 7:00 pm Wildfire Faith & Politics Talk
 at First Lutheran

Sunday, September 27

9:00 am Adult Faith Formation
 9:00 am Children's Faith Formation
 10:15 am Worship
 11:30 am New Member Orientation

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 is committed to
 Racial Justice and is a Reconciling
 in Christ Church.

Contact Us

763-588-4611

www.valleyofpeace.org

4735 Bassett Creek Drive,
 Golden Valley, MN 55422

Altar Flowers given on 9/20 by Nancy Rogness.

Volunteering Opportunity

Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry team is looking for volunteers! If you would be interested in teaching or assisting with Children's Faith Formation on Sunday mornings, or joining as a mentor for Confirmation Mentor Nights, please reach out to Dan Miller via email at cyf@valleyofpeace.org for more information.

New Member Orientation

Our New Member Orientation is a relaxed time to meet others exploring membership, connect with current members, and learn more about Valley of Peace. Attending does not obligate you to join, it is simply an opportunity to get to know the church more. Children are warmly welcome to participate.

Interested in becoming a Member? Let Pastor Ashley know by **September 21, 2026**.

Our next New Member Class is on Sunday, September 27, 2026 after worship.

Renaissance Fair Visit

If your 6th - 12th grader is looking for a fun day with friends old and new, join us for a trip to the Minnesota Renaissance Festival! Confirmation and High-School Youth are all welcome to join at no cost for entry to enjoy a day of jousts, exploration, and so much more! Costumes are encouraged but not required (though trust me: the Renaissance Fair is a lot more fun when dressed up).

When: Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 am

Where: Carpool from Valley of Peace Parking Lot

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 30

Optional Costume/Trinket Workshop: Friday, October 2 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

If your 6th - 12th grader is interested, reach out to Dan Miller at cyf@valleyofpeace.org. **Registration is necessary in advance** so Dan can get the correct number of tickets for everyone attending, as well as make sure enough vehicles are available for transport.

2027 National Youth Gathering

With the National Youth Gathering is next summer, registration is fast approaching. As an extra special bonus, this unique chance for youth to grow in faith and community will be in Minneapolis!

Who: All current 8th - 12th graders

When: June 26 - July 2

Registration Deadline: October 14

Cost: \$250 non-refundable deposit + fundraising

Scholarships available upon request

More information to come soon. Reach out to Dan Miller at cyf@valleyofpeace.org with any questions or to register for the gathering!

Pray Without Ceasing Resumes September 16

During the Peaceful Revolution in East Germany in the 1980's Lutheran prayer groups met to pray for their country as it struggled under authoritarian control. The liberating prayers of people in the churches and in the streets led to the eventual fall of the Berlin wall and the restoration of democracy. Dirk G. Lange describes the inseparable link between baptismal spirituality and faithful action in his book, *Today Everything Is Different; An Adventure in Prayer and Action*, published in 2021. Inspired by this experience, the Pray Without Ceasing initiative of the Minneapolis Area Synod was born.

We are living in troubling times in our country, with genuine threats to our democracy, our institutions, and our civil rights. Our first response as followers of Jesus is to join in prayer and lament for the sake of the world. Raising our concerns before God in quiet, reflective meditation, prayer, and song opens us up to listening for God's guidance and care.

Please plan to join with others each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm for a simple service of reflection and candle-lighting as we name our heartfelt concerns. We gather in the Narthex for only half an hour, so there is time to also participate in choir, confirmation, or whatever else your evening holds. Come as you are; come when you can. We are constantly reminded that God is at work out ahead of us, and we seek to join with God in caring for the world God so loves. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Eaton, laurie.a.eaton@gmail.com.

Deepening the Valley: Worship Volunteers Conversation

Whether you've been serving in worship for years or are just beginning to consider getting involved, you're invited to join us for our next *Deepening in the Valley* conversation **TODAY**, following worship in the Fireside Room.

This conversation will focus on how we can continue to strengthen and support our worship volunteer ministry. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas on topics such as:

- The volunteer sign-up and scheduling process.
- Welcoming and incorporating new volunteers.
- Volunteer orientation and ongoing training.
- Communication and scheduling preferences.
- Ways to recognize and support our volunteers.
- Other ideas to make serving in worship meaningful, welcoming, and sustainable.

This conversation is an opportunity to listen, gather feedback, and explore ideas together as we look to the future. Everyone is welcome, especially those who currently serve—or would like to serve—in worship.

We hope you'll join us and help shape the future of our volunteer ministry.

If you are unable to attend but would like to share feedback, please send it to Kelsey, our Ministry Support Coordinator, at office@valleyofpeace.org.

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 4 at
4:00 pm

Zoom Information
below or at
valleyofpeace.org

Meeting ID: 851 8650 9978
Passcode: 252425

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



A celebration of love for all creatures

PRISM

- COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY -

CELEBRATING THE
POWER OF COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

11-3PM

JOIN  PRISM FOR A DAY
FILLED WITH FUN:

COMMUNITY VENDORS

MUSIC

FOOD

GAMES

SHOP FOR CHANGE SALE



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS OR
VISIT PRISMMPLS.ORG/PRISMPALOOZA

INTERESTED IN TABLING OR SPONSORING?
EMAIL aweis@prismmpls.org

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



WILDFIRE TALKS: FAITH AND POLITICS

How does our faith shape the way we think about politics, citizenship, and our responsibilities to one another?

Join us for a thoughtful and engaging conversation led by Pastor Mark Tranvik, an ELCA Lutheran pastor, exploring the connection between faith and public life through a distinctly ELCA Lutheran perspective.

Drawing on the writings and witness of Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, and Martin Luther King Jr., the presentation will explore what it means to live out our calling as citizens while grounded in faith.

This is not about telling you what to think. It's an opportunity to ask questions, share perspectives, listen to one another, and engage in honest conversation about issues that matter.

Come ready to think, discuss, and learn from one another.

Faith and Politics

📅 Thursday, September 24

🕒 7:00 to 8:30 pm

📍 First Lutheran Church of Crystal, 7708 62nd Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

All are welcome!

Guest Preacher

Join us on Sunday, September 27 during worship with our guest preacher, Rev. Demetrius A. Chester!

Here's a little bit about Rev. Demetrius:

The Rev. Demetrius A. Chester is an ordained minister in the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), a historic Black Pentecostal denomination. With more than 16 years of ministry experience, Rev. Chester has served in a variety of ministry and pastoral leadership roles, including college campus ministry, youth ministry, and as a lead pastor. His ministry has also given him opportunities to preach and serve across denominational and Christian traditions.

Professionally, Rev. Chester serves as Chief of Staff to the Chief Operating Officer at Portico Benefit Services, the financial services ministry of the ELCA, which provides benefits and services to those who serve the church. He also teaches Business Communication as an adjunct professor at North Central University and serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union.

Rev. Chester holds a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership degree. A lifelong Minnesotan, Rev. Chester and his wife, Nyre, live in Golden Valley with their two daughters, Aubrey and Zoë. Their family has a special connection to Valley of Peace, as both of their daughters have been part of the Valley of Peace childcare community. Rev. Chester is passionate about preaching the Gospel, developing leaders, and helping people connect their faith with how they live, lead, and serve their neighbors.



The VOICE

We've gotten a few emails from members not receiving the monthly newsletter. If this is happening to you, please check your Spam Emails. We've found for some reason, it has been traveling there! If not there, please let Kelsey Pierson know at office@valleyofpeace.org or check on our website under "Worship" to find the latest edition of the VOICE. Thank you!



Birthdays:

9/21: Steve Collin; 9/22: Nancy Rogness; 9/22: Natalie Ruffin; 9/23: Ethan Ahlbrecht;
9/25: Tara Kuckkan; 9/25: Eleanor Gale; 9/26: Julia Blood; 9/27: Dee Kendall;

Anniversaries:

9/21: Janet & Doug Stepanek, their 42nd;
9/26: Deb & Pete Mikelson, their 22nd;

We invite you to take the announcements home with you and 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.

We pray for Betty Hill as she is receiving hospice care.

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
LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

ORGANIST/PIANIST/ ACCOMPANIST

Beth Brandt
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she/her/hers

PASTOR

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FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

Deb Groth

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY

Dan Miller
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he/him/his