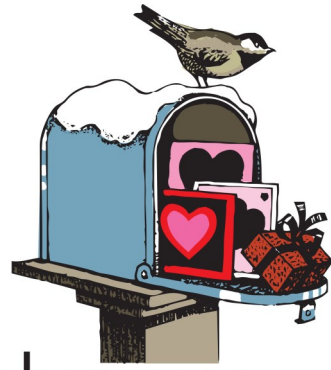


North Valley Lutheran Church
Member of First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish

1988 220th Avenue
Centuria WI 54824
715-825-3559
office@nvlch.org
www.nvlch.org



February

North Valley Message

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish

1988 220th Ave. Centuria WI 54824 715-825-3559 office@nvlch.org www.nvlch.org



The church season is Epiphany and it is like Christmas in the sense that Jesus is shining in the spotlight. The star shines on him, the heavens open and God descends on him, he calls people to follow and immediately they do without explanation. He speaks with authority and reaches out with power unknown at the time. He immediately shows forth his power and purpose as the embodiment of the reign of God, saying and doing good news to everyone close to him.

I want to point out that Jesus stays very local in the first chapters of Mark. It is after all a walking distance sort of story. He gets to Jerusalem at chapter 11. The miracles and teachings happen with people who have a neighborhood lifestyle. These folks don't influence the political powers beyond their congregations (synagogues). How is he still a topic of conversation all around the world? I want to point out that it is not just the resurrection that is remembered - even these 'little miracles' of service among the local believers are carried forward with awe and love. These 'little miracles' of compassion and empathy are referred to in our creed as 'suffering under Pontius Pilot'. When we say 'under Pontius Pilot' we mean that Jesus suffered at the hands of everyone beneath Pontius Pilot. He suffered to help and he made a difference in the lives of a few people in a small and dusty place.

Yet here I am trying to express my adoration. God used power and the patience to spin Jesus' story up into a world epic. Holding the resurrection aside for a second, these actions of neighborly loving kindness and empathy are still the calling cards of Jesus' believers. We do loving kindness to and with our neighbors where and when we can do something and anything. We are now the embodiment of the reign of God. God has the power and the patience to spin our story up to an epic.

Now, about that resurrection ... We are baptized into his death says St. Paul so that we might be raised like him. I'm going to take that on faith. For now, on this side of death, loving kindness is the sign that I am his. You to, I can tell.

Pr Peter

Worship Schedule

8:00am Worship All Sundays in February at North Valley.

Video Messages can be found on our Face-page

Offerings can be mailed to the office or given nvlch.org.

You can also set up giving through your banks automatic bill pay.

Staff

Church Email: office@nvlch.org

Admin. Asst.: Laurene Edge

9:00am-4:00pm Mondays

Please notify the church office if you have a new address or phone number changes.

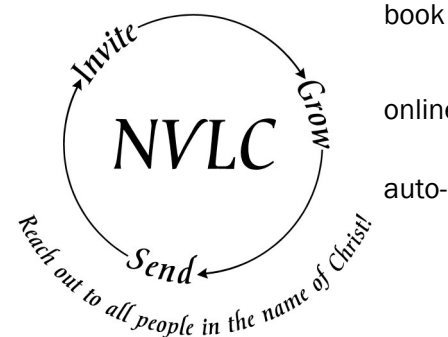
Newsletter articles are due the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Bulletin announcements are due Tuesdays before 11:00am.

Staff & Church Council

Pastoral Support	Tamra Harder
Admin. Asst.	Laurene Edge
Accompanist	Carol Medchill
Parish Nurse	Suzanne Grill
Custodian	Kristie Kuenkel
President	Kristie Wagner
Vice President	Charlie Christen-
Secretary	Bev Hopkins
Treasurer	Tom Tellijohn
Other Council Members	Jan Kruse Jeff Kruse Joey Nelson
W/ELCA Reps.	Myrna Anderson Donna Berg Suzanne Grill

Youth Rep.



book

online

auto-

at

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish Corner
2023 Annual Report - February, 2024
"United in Christ to strengthen our Ministries to adapt, grow and serve"

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May **grace and peace** be yours in **abundance** in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:2NRSV

We are entering our third year as the First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish. As I said last month joining us as our Worship/Spiritual Leaders are Pastor Dave Natzke leading Worship on the 1st, 3rd and the 5th Sundays, Pastor Peter Ruggles leading Worship the 2nd and 4th Sundays and Pastor Tamra Harder as our Visitation Pastor. They meet together and came up with ideas for our Parish Ministries and what they wanted to be reimbursed for those. We will be presenting those Contracts to the Parish Council for final approval at the Parish Annual Meeting.

Confirmation - I am so excited, **WE ALL** helped with the of their Good Gifts Confirmation-Advent/Christmas challenge. The final total wait for it **\$1300.00 !!!** What a great job these kids did with the help of all our congregations - well done good and faithful servants! See the end of my report on what was given and what these young women and men decided to buy. I was there to watch these young women and men figure out how best to spend the money. Again being a part of that Wednesday night and the other things we do as Congregations and a Parish makes my job as your Parish President and Administrator, while difficult at times all worthwhile.

Worship – The season of **Lent** begins **February 14, 2024** with **Ash Wednesday** thru March 23, 2024. Pr. Tamra will lead Worship for **Ash Wednesday** at **North Valley**, 6pm Meal 6:45pm Worship. The **Maundy Thursday Worship** is March 28, 2024 at First and **Good Friday Worship** is March 29, 2024 at Faith both at 7pm.

We will then as a Parish will be joining Luck Lutheran at Luck on their Lenten Journey. “24 Hours that Changed the World”- Christ’s last 24 hours leading to the Cross by Pastor Adam Hamilton-UMC, it will be a multimedia Study/Worship experience. So, **Wednesdays February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 5:30pm-6:15pm Soup Supper with Study/Worship 6:15-7:15pm+/-**. Luck will be doing the February 21 and 28 suppers. We are been asked to provide the Suppers in March with Luck being our guests. I will defer to the WELCA Leaders as to when each Congregation will serve and the menu.

What Pr. Mary Ann and Luck Lutheran offers us pales to anything I was coming up with! And our Confirmation Youth are strongly urged to attend Lenten Worship in fact they have signed up to help already. This way we could see them interact with the Luck Students and they would then be part of the Service. We would be supporting them on their Faith Journey. This will be an Agenda Item for both the Congregation Councils and Parish Council at the Annual Meetings.

We wish to again thank the Parish Choir for the music they have provided during this past year. It has really helped to bring our Parish together.

Call Process and Timing: I have been in contact with Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson and Pastor Randy Olson of the NW Synod and they still don’t have a candidate. If you know of anyone who could help us, do not contact them directly but please let me or Pastor Randy know.

In other Parish business we are doing well financially. I have asked that the year-end financial and the 2024 proposed Parish Budget be included in your Annual Meeting Packets. At this point will we continue our \$4000.00 each commitment to the Parish account so that when we do get a Pastor we will have the ability to cover those expenses as well as paying Supply Pastors until that time. We will be reaching the

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Paster Dave Natzke Communion BP Check during coffee Annual Meeting following worship NV	5	6	7 9am Quilting NV 1pm Choir practice	8	9	10
11 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Pastor Peter Ruggles Sweetheart Auction 10:00 at NV	12	13	14 9am Quilting NV 1pm Choir Practice 6p Soup Supper 6:30p Ash Wed Service North Valley	15	16	17 9a-4p Walking Together in Rice Lake
18 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Paster Dave Natzke Communion	19 Newsletter deadline	20 6:30 Council Mtg NV	21 9am Quilting NV 1pm Choir Practice 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Worship Luck	22	23	24
25 9:30 Faith Combined service with First and North Valley Pastor Peter Ruggles	26	27	28 9am Quilting NV 1pm Choir Practice 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Worship Luck	29		

BIRTHDAYS

02/02 Hunter Carlson
 02/03 Daxton O'Donovan
 02/04 Jim Morrisette
 02/09 Mike Mabry
 02/10 Jayda Heilig
 02/10 Julie Bever
 02/11 Don Prose
 02/11 Evan White
 02/13 Kaden Hallgren-Draves
 02/14 Angie Brecka
 02/14 Keigen Tober
 02/15 Cola DeNucci
 02/15 Caleb Larson
 02/18 Craig Carlson
 02/18 Delores Anderson
 02/19 Jordan Olson
 02/20 Taylor Erickson
 02/25 Lyndsey Heilig

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

02/14/1992 Brad & Mary Jo Hacker
 02/19/2011 Eddie Reh & Anita Johnson
 02/24/1968 Jerry & Joyce Wagner

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Daxton O'Donovan 02/03/2019
 Brittany Sandberg 02/05/1995
 Kristie Kuenkel 02/11/1973
 Mitch Sandberg 02/12/1995
 Jamie Carlson 02/13/1977
 Heidi Simmerman 02/16/2002
 Nate Fisk 02/20/1983
 Jaisa Ouellette 02/24/2013
 Landon Morales 02/24/2008
 Billie Erickson 02/24/2002
 Aaron Kuenkel 02/27/1972
 Jim Morrisette 02/27/1944



OUR FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Beginning Balance \$13,807.00
 Income for November \$5,678.89
 Expenses for November \$7129.12
 Ending Balance: \$12,356.77—Tom Tellijohn, Treasurer

To provide a broader picture of church finances, we are now reporting monthly beginning and ending balances .

NEW OFFICE HOURS
MONDAYS 9A-4P



Marilyn Nehring, Cameron Collins, Randall Krueger, Teresa Studie, Dana Tellijohn, Jim Dishon (Suzanne Grill's son), Kevin Jensen (Heidi Simmerman's brother)

Continued Healing: Rowan Anderson (baby daughter of Heather Johnson & Tyler Anderson), Sharon Johnson, Matt Kludt, Carolyn Nelson, Amelia McKinney

Military: Tyler Brooks (Marine Corps)

Send words of encouragement:

Sgt. Tyler Brooks
 1846 Darby Dr E5
 Florence AL 35630



Donna Berg 715-553-2038
 Myrna Anderson 715-554-7049
 Gwen Morrisette 715-781-3047
 Anita Johnson 715-554-3785
 Suzanne Grill 612-598-8197
 Bette Tooley 701-436-6010
 Joey Nelson 715 553-0262

If you have any prayer requests, please contact anyone on the list, giving them as little or as much information as you wish. All info will be treated with respect and kept confidential.

\$125,000.00 mark that the Parish Council set to look at whether we will continue to build that fund or make adjustments to the Congregational contributions. This will be done at the Parish Annual Meeting.

We continue working on the Parish Budget and the Parish Worship Calendar for 2024 and reviewing the Parish Agreement for any changes.

Our next Parish Council meeting is set for **Sunday January 28, 2024 10:30am** following Parish Worship at Faith.

Always remembering that it is **"God's Work-Our Hands"** to bring and tell of the **HOPE** in Jesus Christ showing while **"Words Matter-Actions Matter More"**.

Yours in Our Eternal **Hope**, Jesus Christ,
 Steve Jensen, Pres. FFVLP

2024 Good Gift Challenge for our Confirmation Youth

DATE	\$\$ Offering Amount	FROM:
December 13	\$470	Confirmation families offering
December 18	\$60	Gift to the kids from a Luck Lutheran elder for 2 water filters
December 20	\$232	\$220 Cushing \$12 extra offering from kids
December 24	\$10	Luck Lutheran gift for school supplies for a child
January 7	\$218	Luck Lutheran offering
January 10	\$255	Offering Faith/First/North Valley
January 10	\$55	Additional offering from Pastor Mary Ann, Steve Jensen, and Laurie and Mark Nelson for the kids to reach \$1,300.
TOTAL:	\$1,300	

CHOSEN GIFTS	Quantity	Page in Catalog	Cost	TOTAL
Honey bees and Community Vegetable Garden	1	7	\$220	
Community Fish Farm	1	7	\$250	
Water filters	10	9	\$300	
School supplies for a child	1	13	\$10	
Portion of an Irrigation Project	1	9	\$100	
Seeds and Gardening Tools	1	15	\$50	
Herd of Goats	1	5	\$300	
Piglets	2	6	\$60	
Mosquito Net	1	17	\$10	
			GRAND TOTAL	\$1,300

This is a Banner Month!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the title states this is a Banner Month at First as we will have two banners this month. We will start the month with “**Jesus the Messiah among us**” banner. And on February 16th, **Ash Wednesday** the beginning of the 40 days of the Lenten Season the banner changes to “**Exodus from Slavery to Service**”.

“Jesus the Messiah among us”

The Apostle Paul’s in 2nd Corinthians Chapters 4&5 calls us to a ministry of Christ, tells us of the trials of that ministry, our motivation for serving God, our future reward for serving Christ, and our ministry of Reconciliation. I invite each of us to read these chapters daily leading up to **Ash Wednesday**. As you read focus your attention on these verses;

2nd Corinthians 4:7 *NRSV*

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

2nd Corinthians 5:20-21 (The Gospel in a nutshell) *NRSV*

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

“Exodus from Slavery to Service”

For the **Lenten Season** there are two books to choose from for this banner. The first of course is the book of **Exodus**, the second book of the Bible. **Exodus** tells us how Moses came to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and Slavery to God’s Service. The events are; the baby Moses in the river, the Burning Bush, the Plagues, the Passover, the Red Sea, the giving of the Ten Commandments and the Law, and why they spent 40 years in the Wilderness before entering the Promised Land. The book of **Exodus** has 40 chapters that is one for each day. Do we see our self and our lives in this book?

The other book you can read is the book of **Hebrews** found in the New Testament between Philemon and James. The book of **Hebrews** gives us how the Old Testament points to and confirms Jesus as the Messiah. There are three key points to this book; Christ, the Object of Our Faith (Hebrews 1:1-4:13), The Superior Work of Christ (Hebrews 4:14-10:18), and The Christian’s Walk of Faith (Hebrews 10:19-13:25).

If you read one chapter a day you can read through the book three times over the 40 days.

The key verse for this reading of Hebrews is 12:2 *NRSV*

²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Alter hangings for this month are Green for the rest of Epiphany and white for the Transfiguration of the Lord (Feb. 11th) then Purple for Lent (Feb. 16th).

In remembering and contemplating our own humanity it is “**God’s Work-Our Hands**” to bring and tell of the **HOPE** in Jesus Christ showing while “**Words Matter-Actions Matter More**”.

Yours in Our Eternal **Hope**, Jesus Christ,

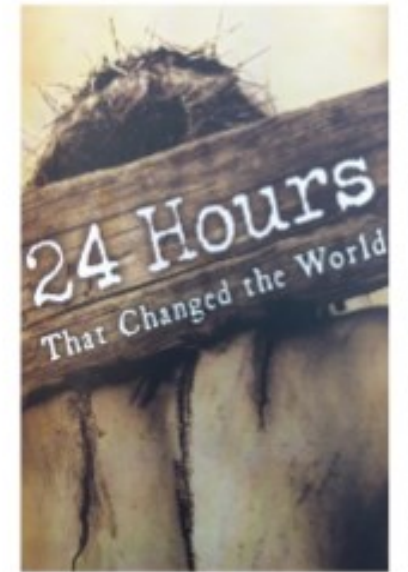
Steve Jensen

2024 LENTEN SERIES

based on the book

24 Hours That Changed the World

by Adam Hamilton



Mid-Week Wednesday Night

Lenten Supper & Worship

Supper is served from 5:30—6:15 p.m.

Worship is 6:15—7:00 p.

(Mid-week supper offerings will go to local mission)

February 21 : The Garden of Gethsemane

February 28 : Condemned by the Righteous

March 6: Jesus, Barabbas, & Pilate

March 13: The Torture & Humiliation of the King

March 20: The Crucifixion

Luck Lutheran Church

510 East Foster Ave. Luck, WI 715.472.2605

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – FEBRUARY 2024

The missionaries we are now sponsoring are Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke in Japan. The cost is \$20 per Sunday. See sign-up sheet. Please be sure to label your donation as a “missionary gift” which may be left in the offering plate. Thank you for your consideration of sponsoring our missionary in Japan.

JANUARY

01-07 – Don & Myrna Anderson

01-14 – Don & Myrna Anderson

01-21 – Don & Myrna Anderson

01-28 – Don & Myrna Anderson

FEBRUARY

02-04 – Dan & Tricia Olson

02-11 – Dan & Tricia Olson

02-18 – Dan & Tricia Olson

02-25 – Dan & Tricia Olson

Mission and Social Action



LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD SHELF: In December, 40 households were served – 68 adults and 11 children. 66 volunteer hours. Donations: Money \$5,007. Weight of food coming in 2,680#, (Includes TEFAP, purchased food donations), Weight of food going out 2,432.5#.

Items needed: milk, mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish soap, laundry soap, personal products for men and women.

THANK YOU

Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County

Because of you, Somebody is getting an extra helping hand to help them keep living independently! And we know this would not be possible without you.

Thank you for your gift! YOU help make the season bright by blessing others. Wishing you peace and join as we head into the New Year! Emily

Northwoods Homeless Shelters

We thank you for partnering with our agency to serve the homeless in our county. It is through your generosity and others like you that we can continue to provide shelter and guidance that promotes independent living skills to our clients. Your support of this program is a blessing!. Virginia Ormsby

Lutheran Social Services

Thank you for your recent gift. Through your generosity and compassion, you surround every child, family and individual we serve in your circle of love. Because of you: children are thriving in stable and supportive families, healing from past trauma and looking forward to the future with hope; Individuals are reunited with their families and return to the work force after finding a pathway to recovery and gaining the skills to maintain it; and Veterans and others experiencing homelessness are crossing the threshold to safe, affordable housing. We are proud to count you among our Mission Champions. Hector Colin

Endeavors Adult Development Center, Inc.

Thank you for your generous donation. We sincerely appreciate your support of our organization and the participants we serve. Leslie Larson

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Thank you for your gift given to our food shelf.

Community Referral Agency

Thank you so much for your kind and generous donation to Community Referral Agency. This contribution is greatly appreciated by our clients, volunteers, and staff.

Lutheran World Relief

Thank you for sharing your compassion with your neighbors who have the very least through your generous Gift of Love. Your love is helping families build resilience so they can survive and thrive in the places they call home. Thank you, and God Bless.

North Valley Vision Statements and Goals

Quantifiable, Relevant, Measurable, Achievable

Acceptance and Community:

- North Valley will seek to love and serve others unconditionally; reaching out to those entering the church and to the community at large.
- Develop a welcoming committee to greet church attendees. (Our logo is welcoming and our church is open)
- Actively participate in two community events per year (ie. Milltown Fishermen’s, maybe a Christmas event)
- Publicize and invite the community to a church sponsored event twice a year.
- Open forum on relevant resolutions of the synod on racism and diversity with an understanding to be open.
- Coffee Hour, nothing political, not about the news but personal sharing. Limit the time, Prepare the group, Announce ahead of time

Faith:

- North Valley will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through traditional and contemporary services as well as providing options for learning/worshiping beyond the Sunday service.
- Community publicized Pop-up services, Wednesday alternative worship, Kiddo bags for education, Contemporary music bring to service. Worship Committee to continue planning.

Willingness/Teamwork:

- As part of the body of Christ, North Valley will remain open and flexible to new ideas and approaches; encouraging all to participate in programs, training and services.
- Make a goal to contact and incorporate one new person in any event before we start planning. Recruit kids to bring their parents along.

Generosity:

- As a country church in rural Wisconsin, North Valley will support the community and global missions with financial means and donations of time, talent and supplies.
- Look for a project to draw the community into a relationship, something they need and we can help with

SWEETHEART AUCTION

Sunday February 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for our annual Sweetheart Auction on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 10:00 am after 8:00 am service for this enjoyable event. The Bever family will not be with us this year as they have travel plans on their schedule. Dan Olson has volunteered to be our auctioneer, and we THANK HIM for volunteering his time. This year’s proceeds will be for NVLC Kitchen Remodel Fund.

All are invited to make items ready to sell for the auction. Featuring baked goods, wine, cheese, quiche, pies, dinners, breads, Super Bowl treats, and more!

All are welcome and encouraged to come to purchase items and have a great time. See you there.





Flu symptoms doctors are seeing in kids this season

By Erika Edwards

The current flu season is shaping up to be a severe one for children.

So far this season, 47 kids and teens have died from the flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday—a worrisome toll that experts say puts the U.S. on track with what was seen last flu season, a particularly bad one for children that ended with 183 pediatric deaths reported.

“We are probably going to at least meet or exceed that,” said Dr. Andi Shane, head of pediatric infectious diseases at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. “We are seeing quite a notable season in terms of deaths.”

The increase in pediatric deaths comes amid an apparent slowdown in flu activity.

On Friday, the CDC reported that for a second week in a row, the number of people hospitalized for the flu has decreased slightly.

Still, the virus continues to circulate at “elevated” levels across most of the country, and the agency warned that it is too soon to say the season has peaked as it continues to watch for another possible rise in spread.

An estimated 180,000 people have been hospitalized so far this season, and 11,000 people have died.

Flu A, particularly H1N1, accounts for the majority of cases, though flu B, which is often more severe in children, is also being reported.

But it’s dehydration that can send a child into the hospital with the flu. Broussard said the following dehydration signs warrant a doctor’s attention:

Dr. Kali Broussard, a pediatric infectious diseases specialist at Our Lady of Lourdes Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Lafayette, Louisiana, said that the majority of children she seeing with flu have high fevers, or 103 or 104 degrees Fahrenheit, for up to a week.

“This year, it’s really the prolonged fevers, dehydration and poor appetite that seem to be getting the best of kids,” Broussard said.

Children may also experience a sore throat, runny nose, chills and extreme body aches, said Samia Kadri, a lead family nurse practitioner at Banner Urgent Care in Phoenix, Arizona.

“Some are coming in with one or two of those symptoms. Some are coming in with all of those symptoms,” Kadri said.

Flu patients generally have one thing in common: “It’s how fast that virus hits you. If it hits you hard and fast, it’s probably the flu,” she said.

Sometimes, children develop a severe and painful form of muscle inflammation called myositis. They may feel that they can’t walk, and sometimes only want to be carried, Broussard said.

“It’s a relatively uncommon side effect of influenza,” Broussard said, adding that it tends to be more common in males and in influenza B patients. She estimates that it can affect up to 20% of kids during seasons when flu B is spreading widely. It usually resolves within a few days.

But it’s dehydration that send a child into the hospital with the flu. Broussard said the following dehydration signs warrant a doctor’s attention:

- Eyes that are sunken in.
- Crying that does not produce tears.
- Babies and toddlers who stop drooling as much as they normally do.
- Saliva that becomes thick.

The annual flu vaccine is recommended for pregnant women, and for children starting at 6 months old. There is still time to get that shot this year, doctors say. While there is no guarantee the shot will protect against infection, it can help reduce the severity of the illness.

Unvaccinated children are often sicker, said Kadri Banner Urgent Care in Phoenix. “I find them to be much more ill than my kids who have been vaccinated.”

thank you

I would like to thank you folks for remembering me at Christmas time. Your thoughtfulness and kindness shown to me is very precious.

~Carol Medchill

WALKING TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 17TH 9AM-4PM

Bethany Lutheran Church

Rice Lake, WI

North Valley Lutheran Church will pay your registration fee of \$25.

Please notify the office ASAP if you would like to attend.