

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



North Valley Message
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First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish Ministry Corner
September, 2023
"United in Christ to strengthen our Ministries to adapt, grow and serve"

"From Worry to Wonder"

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount" Matthew 6:34 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*
³⁴ **"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."**

This text is the basis for "From Worry to Wonder" the Synod Ministry theme for this year.

This month I want to welcome Pastor David "Dave" Natzke to our Worship Team. Pastor Dave will bring Worship September 3rd. Welcome Pastor Dave!

Here is his Bio; I grew up on a dairy farm 20 miles south of Green Bay. My wife, Nla, and I have three sons and a daughter, with 11 grandchildren. Most of my ministry was in Illinois, although I served a dual congregation in the Marinette area and we spent 5 years in Brazil where I served a parish with 5 congregations.

I retired in 2009 and I have served as an interim pastor at 5 congregations since then. At present we live in Menomonie to be closer to two of our children and grandchildren. Pastor Dave

To answer your question; Where are we in Calling a Pastor? I do not have a good answer nor did Pastor Diane House from the Synod at the Parish Council meeting as there are quite a number of churches and parishes needing Pastors in the Northwest Synod as well as surrounding Synods.

That is why I ask that you continue to **pray** that God with send us a Pastor. Again remember it is all in **His** hands and Time!

As I wrote last month; We are a people of **FAITH** and the Holy Spirit is still with us today guiding us directing us as Congregations and a Parish in the way we should be going. Yes, as I have said in the last months we are human and we **worry** about when will we have a Called Pastor guiding us on this journey, how will we know what the future holds? I am writing this after our Congregation and Parish Councils have met. While we continue looking to the future with a little bit of **worry**, we were excited about what we have accomplished as a Congregation and Parish without a Called Pastor and decided that as Jesus said ³⁴ **"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."**

Again, that does not mean we don't make plans because you always need a plan. It means we don't get ahead of ourselves or God. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18-19 *NRSVUE*

¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

Over the past few months the Parish Council has been wrestling with Parish Account balance. Yes, we are paying the Supply Pastors out of it but because they do not take as much as a Called Pastor the balance continues to grow. While some months each Congregation has had to use some of their reserves to cover the Offering short falls. There will be months even when we have a Called Pastor that we all will have shortfalls. PLEASE remember, just because we do not have a Called Pastor does not mean that the work of sharing the Gospel and reaching out with caring hands to our communities has stopped it us as members of the Parish that do **"God's Work with Our Hands"** the Pastor helps guide us. We still need your offerings we have other costs that cost more than the Pastor's salary to keep our ministries going!

When we formed the First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish we all said we wanted a Pastor with 8-10 years of experience understanding that the total compensation package would be \$120,000+ a year. We were

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship All Sundays in September 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 matic bill pay.

Staff

Church Email: office@nvlch.org

Admin. Asst.: Laurene Edge

9:00am-4:00pm Tuesdays

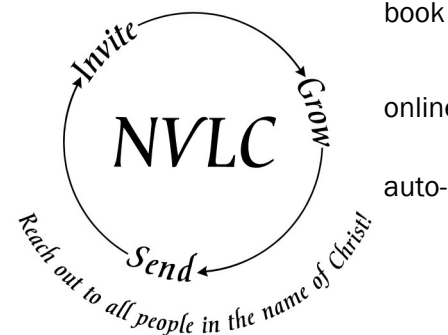
Please notify the church office if you have a new address or phone number changes.

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.	



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advised by Pastors Erin Nelson and Randy Olson of the Synod and Pastor Neal to have a year’s package in reserve. That translated to \$4,000.00 a month per Congregation. At our August 23, 2023 Parish Council meeting the Parish Council voted to reach \$125,000 in the Fund, to refund the December \$4,000 dues payment which we have done twice this year already and at the Annual Meeting of the Parish in February, 2024 if we still have not called a Pastor to reevaluate the \$4,000 dues. We are looking at going to a lesser amount of \$2,000 each for example to cover the monthly Parish costs while still adding to the reserve. We need to keep in mind that when we call a Pastor we will need to make sure we can go back to the \$4,000 per Congregation.

It is **ALL** of **US** not just the Council members or other Lay leaders that keep us going forward so when a candidate does look at us and sees that we are not sitting on our hands waiting for someone, that we are doing **“God’s Work with Our Hands”**

Please read the **Reach Out/God’s Work-Our Hands** to see what we have done and what we can continue to do.

We as your Councils will continue struggle with and try to find answers to, Worship attendance/time, where are the youth and young families? Our offerings are not meeting our expenses/budget all the time, format of Worship/music. Again to keep you thinking; Worship times were setup so it was equal for all Congregations, and to give member a choice if they had plans. I ask you, when your Church has the 9:30am Service is the increase in attendance from your members or the other Churches? Does the format of Worship/music excite you will it excite others?

We are in the season of Pentecost for the next 12 weeks the Parament color is Green for Growing. We continue to celebrate what your Congregations have done so far while we have been waiting for a Candidate.

Please continue pray for wisdom and guidance for your Worship Team and Congregation Councils and the Parish Council as we work to strengthen and improve the Ministry of the First Faith Lutheran Parish and Call a Pastor to Shepherd us on this **Faith Journey**.

Again I say, it is time we take to heart the saying “Let go and let God” God will bring the **Wonder**. Just remember it’s all in **His** time not ours!

Worship Times for September.
8am First, 9:30am North Valley and 11am Faith

Just a reminder **Worship Times** change for **October – November – December**
8am Faith, 9:30am First and 11am North Valley

Our next **Parish Council Meeting** is Wednesday November 8, 2023 6:30pm at North Valley

If you are in need of Pastoral support feel free to contact
 Pastor Tamra Harder, 715-501-3681
 For other matters call the Church Office 715-648-5323
 You can also contact me as well 715-483-3715(H) 715-557-0382(C)

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

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith	4 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	5	6 9am Quilting NV 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	7	8	9 10am Funeral
10 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith Baptism NV	11	12 6:30 Council Mtg NV	13 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	14	15	16 5pm worship at Faith
17 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley No Service at Faith	18 Newsletter deadline	19	20 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	21	22	23
24 9:30 North Valley Combined service with First and Faith	25	26	27 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	28	29	30

BIRTHDAYS

09/04 Tom Mabry
 09/05 Jackie Morales
 09/05 Heidi Simmerman
 09/05 Lyle Hopkins
 09/07 Caleb Hacker
 09/09 Charlie Mayo
 09/11 Donna Berg
 09/11 Landon Gallatin
 09/14 Anistyn Cox
 09/14 Ashleigh Simmerman
 09/16 Alecia Ouellette
 09/16 Rick Pederson
 09/20 Kaylynn Buss
 09/22 Sephonia Cowans
 09/23 Mitch Sandberg
 09/29 Anna Morales
 09/30 Teresa Studie
 09/30 Austin Erickson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09/02/1978 Mike & Cindy Mabry
 09/03/2016 Mitchell & Amber Stage
 09/03/1976 Dave & Bette Tooley
 09/14/2019 Mitch & Brittany Sandberg
 09/16/1995 Tim & Vickie Erickson
 09/21/2019 Randy & Krystal Juleen
 09/22/2007 Sean & Angie McIntyre
 09/24/1988 Jeff & Karyn Kruse
 09/27/2014 Andy & Jess Kruse

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

09/06/1942 Chuck Kruse
 09/12/1993 Marisa Gehl
 09/13/1964 Jeff Kruse
 09/16/2007 Aspen Meagher
 09/19/1948 Beth Egge
 09/22/2019 Michael Woltz
 09/25/1975 Bryan Cox
 09/28/2019 Klara Woltz
 09/28/2019 Kora Woltz

Reach Out!!/God's Work-Our Hands

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Reach Out/God's Work-Our Hands is September's theme. At First we have two banners and both banners have **Hands** on them they are **YOUR HANDS/OUR HANDS!**

Our Parish has been **Reaching Out** for **150+** years to those in need of help and healing by **God's Grace** and **Our Hearts and Hands** in our community and cultivating relationships because of our **Reaching Out**. Your Church Councils and Parish Council along with Pastors who bring the weekly message are calling on **US/You** to use **Our Hands** to do Service Projects for those in need in our community as well as for the Community as a whole. Some of the ideas clean up someone's yard do painting for someone. We also need help with projects in Church building.

All through out both the Old and New Testaments God's people are called to **Reach Out /God's Work-Our Hands** and bear witness to God's Love and Redeeming Power to all the world.

Remember Jonah, he was told by God to **Reach Out/God's Work-Our Hands** go to Nineveh not Jewish people and an enemy city of the Israel and call them to repentance and to come to God. After arguing with God and then trying to run away from the task only to take a three-day side trip in the belly of the great fish Jonah went to Nineveh. Sound like somebody you know? And when Jonah did finally get to Nineveh and preached the Word, all of Nineveh repented and turned to God. Reread the book of Jonah for the whole story.

The Prophet Isaiah called the Jewish people of the Old Testament to reach out to all the peoples of the world in that day. **Isaiah 43:10-11**

*10*You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. *11* I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. *NRSV*

During his ministry Jesus **Reached Out** to many people even though his disciples and the religious leaders of his day chastised him for **Reaching Out** to those sinners and Gentiles. Three notables of these sinners and Gentiles are two women, one a Samaritan who had had 5 husbands and was living with another that was not her husband (John 4:1-42) and the other a Canaanite whose daughter was possessed by a devil (Matthew 15:21-28/Mark 7:24-30). Both of these women were not Jewish, but understood or came to understand who Jesus was and went on to tell others about him. And Zacchaeus, Tax Collector from Jericho, Jesus called him down from the tree and went to dinner with him. Because of that and what Jesus taught Zacchaeus gave half of his wealth to the poor and restored fourfold that which he had taken wrongfully (Mark 19:1-10).

And in his Great Commission, Jesus tells us to **Reach Out/God's Work-Our Hands** to others, who are lost and hurting, first in our own family, then our home town, then our state, then our country and finally the world.

Acts 1:8

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' *NRSV*

This month as we have Rally Sunday September 17 to start off the Sunday School and Confirmation year. Sunday School will be at 9:30am for First, I do not have the times for the other Churches. We are still working on how to do Confirmation. September 11 is "**God's Work-Our Hands**" Sunday when our Councils encourages us do a Service Project for Someone. These are great opportunities to **Reach Out/God's Work-Our Hands** and invite someone who has no church home to come and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. We can also **Reach Out/God's Work-Our Hands** to those who have not been with us in a while and to find out why that is and invite them back. **God's Work** is **Reaching Out** it is **Our Hands** as members of the body of Christ that are called to do the work. Our Pastors are here to help guide us as individuals and a Congregation/Parish and is a fellow worker as we **Reach Out/God's Work-Our Hands** to others.

As we continue in the Season of Pentecost, green is the color reminding us to **grow** in our relationship with God, fellow believers and our neighbors.

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



Marilyn Nehring, Cameron Collins, Randall Krueger, Teresa Studie, Dana Telli-john, 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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living/Homebound:

Home — Teddy Ditlefsen, Athelene Simon



Donna Berg	715-553-2038
Myrna Anderson	715-554-7049
Gwen Morrissette	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.



Luther Point BIBLE CAMP

11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, WI 54840

715.689.2347 | www.lutherpoint.org | info@lutherpoint.org

August 18, 2023

North Valley Lutheran Church
1988 220th Avenue
Centuria, WI 54824

Dear North Valley Lutheran Church

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Luther Point Bible Camp by donating items to our 2023 Summer Celebration and Auction! Our partnership in ministry helped to raise over \$14,400 to support the work of Luther Point's ministry.

The items donated by you and/or your organization raised \$400.00 to support our Ministry!

It was an awesome summer! An outstanding group of young adults guided over 560 campers who came from all over the Upper Midwest, to learn more about "Walking with Jesus" based on Leviticus 26:12, "And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you will be my people."

This was the second year offering "Camp Connect", an onsite day camp program where youth were dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon, and were given the opportunity to experience everything camp has to offer. Our numbers increased for this program and many children attended more than one week.

Again, we were privileged to host two unique camps—Camp Breakaway and Wasco Adventure. Camp Breakaway gives kids ages 7-18 years old who are affected by cancer or chronic blood disorders and their siblings an opportunity to come to camp for a week. There were over 100 children and adults attending. Wasco Adventure is a Washburn County youth prevention program that gives over 50 kids opportunity to learn how brains develop and what good programs there are for them in their community.

These camps and our regular summer Bible Camps impact hundreds of people, who have a chance to encounter Jesus, is all thanks to your partnership and support. Luther Point continues to be a place of "Forming Faith and Pointing to Christ."

God's Peace

Sam Campeau
Executive Director

Forming Faith. Pointing to Christ

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation instruction this year will be at Luck Lutheran Church. Those of you with confirmation age children should attend the kick-off meeting there on **September 6th at 6:30pm.**



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

OUR FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2023

Beginning Balance	\$15,847.00
Income for July,	\$7,402.02
Expenses for July	\$7,224.58
Ending Balance:	\$16,024.44—Tom Tellijohn, Treasurer

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

Mission and Social Action



MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – SEPTEMBER 2023

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.

AUGUST

08-06 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

08-13 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

08-20 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

08-27 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

09-03 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

09-10 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

09-17 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

09-24 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

PLEASE SIGN UP TO SPONSOR OUR MISSIONARIES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023.

Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf: In July, 38 households were served – 60 adults and 12 children. 68.5 volunteer hours. Donations: 1635#, Money \$920.10; Weight of food going out: 1,487#.

Items needed: fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs dish soap, personal items for men and women, spices, and paper products.

Quarter Bowl Offering for July, August and September for Lutheran World Relief Kits

Contact Myrna Anderson if you have questions.

We need sturdy boxes for shipping quilts to Lutheran World Relief. We pack about 4 quilts per box. Approximate size for boxes 15.5W X 23.5L X 14D. If you have any available and would like to donate, please drop off at church. Thank you.

All donations are appreciated and can be left in donation baskets in the fireside room. Cash donations will be used to purchase items needed to finish the kits. Thank you.

Pop Up Church at NVLC 8/13/2023

Thank you to everyone who was involved with organizing the event, those who purchased groceries, craft supplies, games, and prizes, those who prepared and served the meal, those leading and guiding the activities, and to the parents, grandparents and families who attended which was 27 people. It was a very fun event. Thank you.

FOCUS ON FITNESS

Stretching: Myth vs. Fact

Most everyone loves a good stretch. But what does it really do? And how can you do it right?

BY REBECCA ROWELL

There's no denying a good stretch can feel great. But while stretching can help ease tense muscles, **it can also cause damage if you don't do it right.** So how can you do it correctly and not get hurt? It helps to take a look at some common stretching myths and misconceptions.



Rebecca Rowell is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer.

Myth #1: All stretches are the same

There are two distinct types of stretching:

- Static: This is what many of us think of when it comes to stretching — you hold a pose to loosen your muscles, relax for a moment, then repeat
- Dynamic: This type of stretching uses movement — swinging your arms in circles or rotating your hips are two examples

Tip: Take your time. One rule of thumb is to aim to gently hold a stretch for 30-60 seconds. That will give your muscles time to lengthen and loosen.

Myth #2: Always stretch before you exercise

Many people stretch to “warm up” cold muscles. But a wealth of new research points out that stretching — particularly static stretching — before exercise doesn’t help. It may even cause injuries.

So what to do instead? Walk or jog for five to 10 minutes or jump rope for a few minutes. All will boost your body temperature and ease you into your exercise routine.

Myth #3: Stretching helps heal sore muscles

This can do more harm than good. Why? The soreness you feel after exercise is often the result of microscopic tears in your muscle fibers. Vigorous stretches can make those tears larger — and cause more soreness or even injuries.

Be sure to stretch when your body is warm from light movement. Stretch in a smooth, fluid fashion and avoid bouncing or rapid movement. Also, stay consistent — as with any exercise, you’ll get the most benefits from a regular routine.

Finally, always check with your doctor before you start or change any exercise program.

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

POP UP CHURCH AUGUST 13TH

