

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



A publication of North Valley Lutheran Church

North Valley Message

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

“From Worry to Wonder”

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From “The 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.

The past few months Brooke and Laurene have **worried** that my articles will not make it in time for the Newsletters to go out. Some of that is procrastination and some is what do I have to tell you. As I work on the Parish Corner each month I try to show us the good things that we as a Parish and Congregations are doing and accomplishing as well as where we are in Calling a Pastor. I want to call out again a great ministry in our Parish, Feed My Neighbor Community Food Pantry a joint ministry with Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church and Joy Lutheran located in Centuria that all of our Parish Congregations support. Our WELCA groups do quilting, Kits for Lutheran World Relief, VBS/ Popup Church working with our youth, just to name a few. It is our Lay leaders that keep us going forward and when a candidate does look at us and sees that we are not sitting on our hand waiting for someone, that we are doing “**God’s Work with Our Hands**”

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.

These verses reminded me of the hymn “Count Your Blessings” here is the first verse and refrain

When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Here is a link to the complete song or search the web for it.

https://hymnary.org/text/when_upon_lifes_billows_you_are_tempest

Some of the worries we as Councils struggle with are, 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.

These are questions that the Councils will be work on this month and bringing to the Parish Council meeting Wednesday August 23, 2023 6:30pm at Faith. Pastor Diane House from the Northwest Synod office will be coming to the Parish Council to help use get a handle on these and other questions.

To get 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?

This month we have Pastor Susan Anderson join our Worship Team. Pastor Susan will bring Worship August 6, Saturday August 19 and Sunday August 20. Welcome Pastor Susan!

Here is her Bio; I have served congregations in Northwest Wisconsin since 1990, with a three year term in the Sierra Pacific Synod in 2008 to 2011. The last call was in Bloomer, Wisconsin, serving there as half-time pastor for eight years, retiring there in 2019. Since then, as I mentioned, I have worked as a nurse (my second vocation) in a long-

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.	

Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship All Sundays in August 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

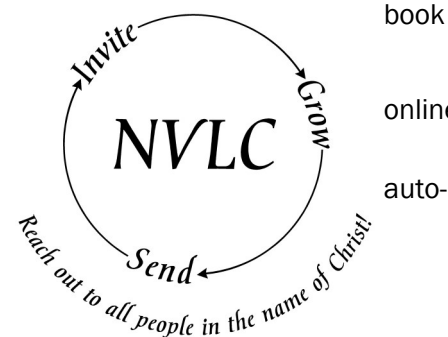
Church Email: office@nvlch.org

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.



book

online

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term care facility during the recent pandemic. I am married to my husband, John, for 20 years. We have a farm in New Auburn where we have sheep and chickens. I have two sons, one who lives next door to us, and my younger son, who is a clinical psychologist in Sacramento, California. They have blessed me with four grandchildren, who are growing faster than I can keep up.

We are in the season of Pentecost for the next 16 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 August- September.

8am First, 9:30am North Valley and 11am Faith

A reminder of our Parish VBS/Popup Church events Sunday August 6,5pm Cushing Ball Park, Sunday August 13, 5pm North Valley and Saturday August 19, 5pm at Faith see the flyer in the newsletter.

Our next **Parish Council Meeting** is Wednesday August 23, 2023 6:30pm at Faith

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

God’s Work, Our Hands & God’s Promised Blessings

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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. We continue to have as our Church wide theme banner “**God’s Work, Our Hands**”. We need to think about this theme and realize that **all** that we do is **His work** no matter what work we do we and the theme for this month shows us this very well.

Augusts’ theme “**God’s Promised Blessings**” reminds us that as believers in the finished work of the Cross we are blest for our Faith and Life Journey and that God’s greatest promise and blessing awaits us when we are with him in eternity.

From the opening verses of Genesis to the last verse of Revelation God wants to bless us and he does in many ways, but we could have much more. Adam and Eve had the blessing, Eden (God’s presence), but sin entered in and they had to leave. God promised them that they and their children (all believers) would return to Eden one day by the blood of his sacrifice (Jesus). God made promises to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of whom we are joint heirs through Christ. If we look at these promises through the lens of the Ten Commandments, we see that Commandments1-4 is how God wants us to see him, honor him and worship him. The 5th Commandment, “**Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.** (Exodus 20:12, Deut. 5:16) is as the Apostle Paul calls it “**which is the first commandment with promise**” (Eph. 6:2-3). We are promised that if we honor our elders who are to be the earthly reflection of God’s love our blessings will be many. Commandments 6-10 show us our human short comings and our need for Jesus and his finished work of the Cross. We need to remember that for every promised blessing of obedience there is an equal or greater curse for disobedience.

King Solomon was asked by God in a dream “What should I give you?” (1Kings 3:5-12) remember Solomon asked discernment/wisdom and not the earthly things, God gave him discernment/wisdom and the earthly things besides and in great abundance.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	3	4	5
6 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith	7	8	9 9am Quilting NV 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	10	11	12
13 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith	14	15 6:30 Council Mtg NV	16 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	17	18	19 5pm worship at Faith with meal & pontoon rides
20 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley No Service at Faith	21 Newsletter deadline	22	23 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	24	25	26
27 9:30 North Valley Combined service with First and Faith	28	29	30 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	31		

BIRTHDAYS

Cox, Brynna 08/02/2006
 Chapman, Noah 08/02/2020
 Hallgren, Lynn 08/02/1959
 Heilig, Lani 08/07/2006
 Buss, Colton 08/08/2015
 Gehl, Marisa 08/12/1993
 Sloper, Marvin 08/13/1957
 Olson, Jenny 08/14/2000
 Kruse, Karyn 08/15/1965
 Cox, Elaine 08/17/1945
 Christner, Noah 08/17/2001
 Collins, Debbie 08/18/1979
 Thoen, Mercedes 08/19/2004
 Nehring, Marilyn 08/20/1948
 Jaskolka, Jessica 08/20/1993
 Tober, Jennifer 08/21/1980
 Pederson, Dorie 08/25/1961
 Lunde, Jason 08/27/1994
 Odegard, Evan 08/29/2008

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

08/10/2013 Nate & Kelsey Melin
 08/13/1988 Jeff & Joni Stage
 08/20/1994 Aaron & Kristie Kuenkel
 08/22/1964 Craig & Elaine Cox
 08/25/2012 Bear & Cola DeNucci
 08/29/1981 Dan & Jackie Morales

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

08/01/2021 Nixon Jaskolka
 08/06/2017 Daimyan Smith
 08/08/2020 Baze Sandberg
 08/08/2004 Carly Eibs
 08/10/2008 Noah Cox
 08/12/1956 Myron Olson
 08/14/1960 Lori Sloper
 08/15/2021 Landon Gallatin
 08/16/2020 Nash O'Donovan
 08/18/2007 Sean McIntyre
 08/19/2018 Axyl Fisk
 08/22/2020 Mary Lundquist
 08/23/2020 Noah Chapman
 08/27/1967 Kim Tunheim
 08/29/2020 Walter Kruse
 08/30/2020 Genevieve Hill
 08/31/1997 Brett Kuenkel

Jesus in his teachings (Sermon on the Mount Mathew 5-7 & Luke 6:17-26) and miracles reinforced these promises of blessings and the Apostle Paul along with Peter, James, and John in their letters to the Church also reinforces them.

The Apostle Paul sums up the promises of blessings best **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”** (Galatians 6:7-10)

With all that has been happened in our Country and the World we now more than ever to be the **“Hands of God”** and share **“God’s Promised Blessings”**. To receive the **“Promised Blessings”** we need to repair our broken relationships by listening to one another just as God listens to us. Let us read and put into practice what Jesus said in Matthew 5:37-48. Being ever mindful of this as we continue on this journey of Faith as a Congregation/Parish in search of a new Pastor, with the help of Supply Pastors, we thank Neal, Peter, Dana, Susan and Dave. We each need **“God’s Promised Blessings”** to show us the way we should go in our own life as well as the life of our Congregation. We need to ask ourselves, Am I/are we walking daily as children of **Promise** (Romans 8:17)? What am I being shown by **“God’s Promised Blessings”** to do as part of this Journey and beyond? We as a faith community are **ALL** to work together (**“God’s Work, Our Hands”**) in telling the World about God’s Love and showing **“God’s Promised Blessings”** towards all people through his son Jesus. Pastors Neal, Peter, Susan, Dave and Dana are here to help and guide us in our Faith journey not to do all the work.

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



OUR FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 2023

Beginning Balance	\$18,846.87
Income for June,	\$4421.66
Expenses for June	\$7,421.53
Ending Balance:	\$15,847 —Tom Tellijohn, Treasurer

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



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

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.

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

Mission and Social Action



MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – AUGUST 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.

JULY

07-02 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
07-09 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
07-16 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
07-23 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
07-30 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

AUGUST

08-06 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
08-13 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
08-20 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
08-27 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

PLEASE SIGN UP TO SPONSOR OUR MISSIONARIES.

Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf: In June, 44 households were served – 70 adults and 10 children. 73 volunteer hours. Donations: 2238.7#, Money \$1,196.88; Weight of food going out: 1,744#.

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

As you can see, the number of families and people has increased quite a bit this month.

Thanks. Pam Girtz

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

The following is a list of items needed for 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.

School Kits.

4 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approx. 8½ X 10½” NO LOOSE LEAF PAPER; 1 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on 1 side and inches on the other; 1 pencil sharpener; 1 blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well); 5 new unsharpened #2 lead pencils with erasers; 5 black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink); 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons; and 1 2½” eraser.

Baby Care Kits Sizes up to 24 months - Gently used and clean items can be substituted for new ones. To finish 10 Baby Care Kits: We need: 5 dark hand towels, 19 receiving blankets up to 52” square; 12 gowns or sleepers without feet; 11 T-shirts, and 20 4-5 oz bars gentle soap in original wrapper.

Personal Care Kits

Light-weight dark bath towels – between (minimum of 20”X40” to maximum of 52”X27”); Bath size (4-5 oz) bar soap, in original wrapping; 1 adult toothbrush in orig. packing or in sealed envelope

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

From The Parish Nurse

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.

– *Mother Teresa*

Tags: science, religion-spirituality

When I'm sad,

I don't want someone to tell me how "it gets better" or how I need to "move on."

I need someone to tell me that it's okay to be sad and that my feelings are validated.

I don't need someone to tell me about how much happier I could be. I need someone to hold me and tell me that I've been strong and that it's okay to sometimes not be okay.

