

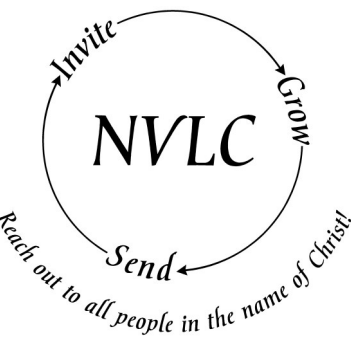
North Valley Lutheran Church
Member of First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish

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



2025

December



Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship All Sundays in December at North Valley.

Video Messages can be found on our Facebook page

Offerings can be mailed to the office or given online at 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 Mondays before 11:00am.

Pastoral Support: Pastor Tamra Harder 715-501-3681

Reminder: The church service is available to watch on Facebook. By friending the North Valley Lutheran Church page, you will have access. We apologize for it not being smooth running but hope things are better now. If you can't come in person, give it a try. We're always trying to improve it. In the event where it doesn't air, you can see the service on the Faith Lutheran Church Balsam Lake site.



A publication of North Valley Lutheran Church

North Valley Message
First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish
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“Luke’s Vision for the people of God”

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Luke’s Vision for the people of God” the theme for December is a fitting as we continue through Advent to Christmas-Our Lords Birth. Luke’s Gospel is one that gives us the life of Jesus from his birth to his ascension.

The following excerpt is from the book “Adventuring Through the Bible” by Ray C. Stedman found in the chapter on Luke’s Gospel.

“The Gospel of Luke is the Gospel of the man who was perfection -incarnate, the only truly perfect human being. The third Gospel presents Jesus as the **Son of Man**. -That was our Lord's favorite title for Himself - a title He used more frequently than any other name. As you read the Gospel of Luke, you meet the same person you meet in Matthew, Mark, and John. But note the differences in emphases among the four Gospels. In Matthew, the emphasis is upon His **kingliness**; in Mark, the emphasis is on His **servanthood**; in John, the emphasis is on His **deity**. But here in Luke, the emphasis is on His **humanity**.

The essential manhood and humanity of Christ are continually underscored throughout Luke’s Gospel. The key to the Gospel is found in **Luke 19:10**. In fact, this verse sets forth a handy outline of the entire book:

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

As we read Luke’s Gospel we see ourselves (**humanity**) as the people drawn to this young rabbi to be forgiven and healed and then going out empowered by him to tell others about this man Jesus and what he has done for me. I would like to invite/encourage everyone to read Luke’s Gospel this month and not just the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-38). You can do it any way that works for you but with 24 chapters that is one chapter a day Monday through Friday.

The Alter hangings for this month are blue for Advent and white for Christmas through Epiphany.

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

Yours in Our Eternal **Light** and **Hope**, Jesus Christ,
Steve Jensen

“

Staff & Church Council	
Pastoral Support	Tamra Harder
Admin. Asst.	Laurene Edge
Accompanist	Carol Medchill
Parish Nurse	Suzanne Grill
Custodian	Kristi Kuenkel
President	Don Prose
Vice President	Myron Olson
Secretary	Bonita Leggitt
Treasurer	Tom Tellijohn
Other Council Members	Joe Gronquist Joey Nelson Marilyn Nehring
W/ELCA Reps.	Myrna Anderson Donna Berg Suzanne Grill Tricia Olson Joey Nelson
Youth Rep.	

CONFIRMATION NEWS!

Our Confirmation field trip to Minneapolis on Wednesday, October 29 was a great success and we learned so much! Our group of 14 youth and 7 adults were guests of Agate Housing and participants in their "A Day in the Life" program. In our immersion experience, their community educators helped us understand the systemic problems of poverty. They took us to various places in the city on the light rail and metro busses. We learned about social service agencies, advocacy, and helpers in community. We met several of God's beloved children who had been caught in deep poverty and now had new beginnings and a life with hope. We are learning to be advocates in our own communities for those who are both shelter and food insecure. We are learning how to put our love for Jesus into action as we live out our faith active in love – for God, and for one another.

²⁴ [Jesus said] So, now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ²⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. —John 13:34 – 35



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 1pm Choir Practice	4 9am Lefse	5	6
7 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith Pastor Neal Communion 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School	8 Office hrs 9-4	9	10 9:30 Worship Committee Meeting 1pm Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith Pastor Peter 3rd Sunday of Advnet 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Council Meeting	15 Office hrs 9-4	16	17 1pm Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 8:00 First 9:30 North Valley 11:00 Faith Pastor Neal Communion 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School	22 Office hrs 9-4 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Worship	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 9:30 North Valley Combined Service Pastor Peter 9:30 Sunday School	29 Office hrs 9-4	30	31  New Year's Eve			



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Byl, Ivy	12/03/2020
Fisk, Randi	12/04/1992
Egge, Beth	12/07/1947
Erickson, Billie	12/07/2001
Olson, Dan	12/09/1952
Woltz, Kyler	12/10/2007
Christensen, Scarlett	12/10/2017
Livingston, Dan	12/12/1989
Ouellette, Jaisa	12/14/2012
Ouellette, Kasey	12/14/1992
Woltz, Kora	12/15/2015
Johnson, Anita	12/16/1965
Kuenkel, Kristie	12/16/1972
Erickson, Holden	12/19/2005
Sandberg, Brenton	12/20/2021
Divine, Scott	12/21/1962
Metcalf, Allen	12/22/1957
Morales, Landon	12/23/2007
Buss, Eric	12/26/2017
Stage, Jeff	12/26/1956
Wagner, Jake	12/30/2000
Bengtson, Doug	12/31/1992



Joyce Wagner	12/05/1948
Mitch Hopkins	12/07/1969
Josephine Livingston	12/08/2019
Jonathon Buss	12/08/2013
Lexis Olson	12/11/2005
Verle Hacker	12/12/1943
Colton Buss	12/13/2015
Brad Hacker	12/13/1959
Eddie Reh	12/19/2010
Katie Hallgren	12/19/1993
Paul Grill	12/21/1952
Kaylee Olson	12/23/2018



Paul & Suzanne Grill 12/12/2006

BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of

incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin



Prayer Chain

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.

Marilynn Nehring, Jim Dishon (Suzanne Grill's son), Kevin Jensen (Heidi Simmerman's brother), Carol Medchill, Linda Goulet

Continued Healing: Sharon Johnson, Matt Kludt, Amelia McKinney

Send words of encouragement:

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Dana Tellijohn

Homebound: Charles & Cari Mayo, Carol Bengtson, Mary Lundquist, Elverna Blomgren

First Lutheran Apple Cores/Corps are taking orders for our 2025 pies!



Homemade
Frozen Apple Pies
Ready to bake
\$ 10.00

They make a great Hostess/Host gift for them to enjoy later.

Contact Sandy Jensen 715-566-0438 if you need Pies

BLESSINGS TO ALL DURING ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND THOUGHOUT THE YEAR

At this time of the year, I think about all the beautiful music we have and wonderful scriptures we hear and read in our churches and our homes. I wanted to look up and find out how many scriptures we have in the Bible that relate to music we have in our church. So, I went to my computer and looked up just that question. It was a wonderful experience for me as I do LOVE MUSIC. We have “30 powerful Bible verses” telling us about the importance of music at our services and what it does for all of us.

Maybe some of us think that music does not do anything for you but some feels very involved with the music and words that we sing. Looking at what was said it is very interesting what music can do for us. Through songs, hymns and spiritual melodies we praise, think of what we are doing in life, find the love of our Creator for us, and see that he is with us everyday. I think of his greatness and how he has been with me through thick and thin. Singing and playing a musical instrument helps me feel his closeness to me and all he has given me. The Gift of Music; I thank God for his Blessing me.

I feel so happy that we sing in church and have our choir; what a Blessing to me, and the children singing -that is wonderful. I want to thank all of you for sharing your God Given Talent with all of us. We are all so Blessed.

I hope you have a Very Wonderful and Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Just keep singing and making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Psalm 100: 1-2

~Carol Medchill



MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – DECEMBER 2025

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.

NOVEMBER

- 11-02 – Greg & Julie Dunn
- 11-09 – Greg & Julie Dunn
- 11-16 – Greg & Julie Dunn
- 11-23 – Greg & Julie Dunn
- 11-30 – Greg & Julie Dunn

DECEMBER

- 12-07 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-14 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-21 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-28 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD SHELF: In October, 54 households were served – 83 adults and 32 children. 67 volunteer hours. Donations: Money \$25.00. Weight of food coming in 2,174#, (Includes TEFAP, purchased food donations), Weight of food going out 2,808#.

Items needed: Thanksgiving or Christmas Food: Vegetables, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, macaroni, peanut butter, pasta, rice, noodles, spaghetti.

We can always use more volunteer workers. Please contact Pam Girtz 320-232-7541 email: girtzp@gmail.com or Gena Bugno nobug115@yahoo.com.

Quarter Bowl Offering

Quarter Bowl Offering for November and December is for NVLC Good Samaritan Fund – Giving Tree. Thank you.

WELCA - Be a Lucky Winner

WELCA raffle tickets have been printed and are available for sale. Please remember to sell your WELCA raffle tickets and return them by December 21, 2025. Please contact Jan, Donna, or Myrna if you would like more tickets to sell. You may give them to a WELCA member, mail them, or drop off at the church.

Drawings will be after church on December 21, 2025. Prizes are a Holiday Gift Basket, a \$100 gift certificate to Daeffler Meats in Frederic, WI, and a \$50 gift card at Circle K. Best wishes to all!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00pm First Lutheran Cushing

5:30pm North Valley

7:00pm Faith (details to be determined)

From the Parish Nurse...

**“How can I keep my blood pressure down over the holidays? It’s
borderline high.”**

Dr. Adam: Celebrating the holidays with family and friends is important for our emotional well-being. I encourage the millions of Americans who have borderline high, or elevated, blood pressure to go out and have fun, but take some precautions.

To keep blood pressure in check, it’s important to pay attention to lifestyle choices. Making small changes can have a big effect.

Minimizing salt intake is a good example. The American Heart Association recommends older people limit their sodium to no more than 1,500 milligrams a day.

Drinking water helps to move sodium out of the body through the kidneys, so be sure to stay hydrated.

Exercise is another way to keep blood pressure down. I recommend at least 150 minutes per week. Walking is a wonderful activity, especially after a big holiday meal. One recent study found that adding only an additional five minutes of exercise per day to your usual routine is linked to a drop in blood pressure.

When you’re overweight, your heart has to work harder to pump blood through your body. That’s why weight is a strong predictor of high blood pressure. Limiting the amount of sugar and carbs you consume can help keep off those extra pounds. Of course, it’s tough to resist a holiday dessert now and then, but try not to overdo it.

You’ll also want to get enough sleep. Research from the American College of Cardiology found that people who get less than seven hours per night have an increased associated risk of getting high blood pressure.

And alcohol directly affects your blood pressure control. If you’ve had a bit too much one night, you may want to switch to seltzer for the next few evenings.

While stress during the holidays can raise blood pressure, studies show feelings of gratitude not only lower stress levels but also improve blood pressure. May you find a reason to celebrate every day of your life—no matter the season

From “Your Health” AARP Bulletin November/December 2025.



**Just a reminder that Sunday School is held every
Sunday at 9:30, regardless of the church schedule.**

Everyone is welcome to attend!



Please keep Faith Lutheran Church and it’s entire congregation in your prayers this holiday season, as their hearts are heavy with the damage caused by the fire on November 23rd. This will be a long road of assessing damage, making big decisions on the best direction to take to repair/rebuild, and emotional healing. If you are able, please volunteer to help where and when needed.

NORTH VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

November 15th, 2025

The Craft and Bake Sale was organized and run by Anita Johnson, with all proceeds from the sale going to the Sunday School Fund.



The gift tags will be placed on the giving tree at church by Saturday, November 29th. Gifts need to be wrapped and brought back to the church by Thursday, December 18th.

If anyone prefers to give a monetary donation, Kristie Pax would be happy to shop for the gifts and wrap on your behalf.

Kristie Pax

715-554-3171

