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



Worship Schedule

11:00am Worship All Sundays in December at North Valley.

Video Messages can be found on our Facepage

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

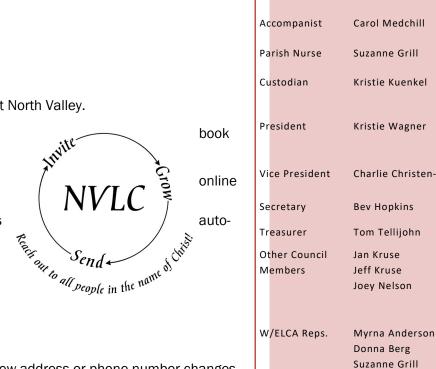
Admin. Asst.: Laurene Edge 9:00am-4:00pm Tuesdavs

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

mile

NVLC

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



Youth Rep.



North Valley Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Luke 2:19 "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

This is my favorite verse from the Christmas story. I certainly do not have any idea what it was like for Mary to hear from an angel that she would have a child, God's Son, and then to carry that child in her womb for those nine months. But here she was with Joseph and that child, Jesus, far from Nazareth, surrounded by shepherds who told her that they too had been visited by angels who had told them where to find this child, this special child! Maybe she didn't know whether to laugh, cry, or just be in awe at what God had done through her. O Holy Night!

But before we get to Christmas we go through a time of getting ready. We call that time Advent--a coming toward. We talk about treasuring three comings: Jesus coming into the world as a baby; Jesus coming back to earth at the end of time at the second coming; and also Jesus coming into our hearts.

Martin Luther tried to capture the meaning of Jesus' coming in a verse from the Hymn "From Heaven Above To Earth I Come"

"Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, make thee a bed, soft, undefiled, within my heart that it may be a quiet chamber kept for thee."

May this be a blessed Christmas season for all in our troubled world.

In Christ, Pastor Dave

at

An Invitation for anyone that might be interested!

One of the challenging things when leading worship at three congregations on a Sunday is that it is difficult to put names, faces, personal and congregational histories together. So I would like to invite the members who are interested to meet with me before or after worship on the weekend of December 16th-17th. The schedule would be: Faith at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16th; First at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday December 17th; and North Valley following worship on Sunday, December 17th.

At those gatherings I would like to get to know peoples' name; family situation; occupation; how long you have belonged to the congregation; one positive memory you have about your congregation; one sad time you have had while you have been a member; and also what item or place is important to you in the inside of your church.

If you would like to write this down ahead of time that would be helpful, but just your being there is most important. Also, if you won't be able to be there and you would like to write something out and get it to me I would appreciate that as well.

All of this will be helpful for me to get to know the members better when I see your faces at worship. Thank you, Pastor Dave

Bulletin announcements are due Tuesdays before 11:00am.

Admin. Asst. Laurene Edge

Pastoral Support Tamra Harder

Staff & Church Council

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish 1988 220th Ave. Centuria WI 54824 715-825-3559 office@nvlch.org www.nvlch.org

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish Corner

December, 2023

"United in Christ to strengthen our Ministries to adapt, grow and serve"

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First of all, **Advent and Christmas Greetings everyone!** May your gatherings with family and friends be filled with four virtues of the Season, **Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.**

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 and will continues 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.

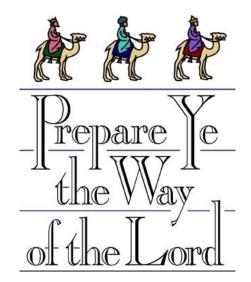
We are working on the Parish Budget and the Parish Worship Calendar for 2024 and reviewing the Parish Agreement for any changes.

I have also included in this Newsletter the Minutes from the November 8, 2023 Parish Council meeting.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be Wednesday Feb 7, 2024 at First-Cushing at 6:30pm. That will also be the Parish Annual Meeting

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



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10am Faith WELCA Advent Brunch
3 8:00 Faith 9:30 First 11:00 North Valley First Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School BP Check during coffee Pastor Dave Natzke First Communion NV	4	5 4pm WELCA Meeting at First	6 9am Quilting NV 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	7 9am Lefse making at NV	8	9
10 8:00 Faith 9:30 First 11:00 North Valley Pastor Peter Ruggles	11	12	13 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley 6P-7P Confirmation	14	15	16
17 8:00 Faith 9:30 First 11:00 North Valley 10:00 WELCA mtg NV 10:45-11:45 Sunday School Perform Christmas song in church Pastor Dave Natzke Raffle drawing NV	18 Newsletter deadline	19 6:30 Council Mtg NV	20 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley	21	22	23
24 Spm Faith 6pm First 7pm North Valley Pastor Peter Ruggles 31 9:30 First Combined service with NV and Faith Vear's Evelow	25	.26	27 9am Quilting 1pm Parish Choir Practice North Valley 6P-7P Confirmation	28	29	30

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
Christensen, Scarlett	12/10/2017
Woltz, Kyler	12/10/2007
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
Stage, Jeff	12/26/1956
Buss, Eric	12/26/2017
Odberg, Grace	12/29/1934
Wagner, Jake	12/30/2000
Bengtson, Doug	12/31/1992

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

 12/12/2006
 Paul & Suzanne Grill

 12/20/1969
 Mark & Joey Nelson

BAPTISMAL ANNIPARGARY

DAI HSIVIAL AIVIN	Age OAN I
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
Brad Hacker	12/13/1959
Colton Buss	12/13/2015
Katie Hallgren	12/19/1993
Eddie Reh	12/19/2010
Paul Grill	12/21/1952
Kaylee Olson	12/23/2018

SIMATTERS

OUR FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER 2023

Beginning Balance	\$14,409.70
Income for October	\$7,013.00
Expenses for October	\$7615.70
Ending Balance:	\$13,807.00—Tom Tellijohn, Treasurer

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



Prayer Chain

	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

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

<u>Continued Healing</u>: 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

"Luke's Vision for the people of God"

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Luke's Vision for the people of God" the banner theme for December is a fitting banner 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/contemplating our own <u>humanity</u>, 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

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.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent is a time of reflection and preparation and Christmas is a time of rejoicing and new beginnings. We reflect on God's many blessing of the past year some make us sad others make us happy but we rejoice in them all.

As I reflect on the past year we have had a good year. In spite of the fact our lawn looked like one of those coconut welcome mats all summer. Our garden produced well considering we had to water it 9 hours a week and we have food stored for the coming year. We are in good health and still can volunteer/ work.

As I have shared before I lost a good share of my pension in the stock market down turn of 2008, but through it all God has been faithful and continues to provide for us. As I listen to the Stock Market reports I could be sitting wringing my hands worrying about what will happen to my pension this coming year but I have given it to the Lord as He is in control of everything. We can try and say we are the masters of our own ship but who is in charge of the wind direction and the water currents? The same goes for our Congregations and Parish as we reflect on our year in Mission/Ministry some things made us sad others make us happy but we rejoice in them all.

As the Apostle Paul writes to the Philippians in chapter 4:11-13, "Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength". And verse19, "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus".

During this Season we remember all that God has provided to each of us this past year whether it was bountiful or just the amount we needed. As we prepare to remember the greatest Gift God has given his own Son to be born into this world in a smelly cold stable because there was no room in the Inn. Then 33 years later He is beaten and hung on a Tree/Cross and died there to take away our Sins, then 3days later rises from that death and proclaims "All is Forgiven" for all who believe and call on His name whether it be past, present and future generations and we shall be with Him forever. God gave it all he held nothing back. God owns it all and we are only here for according to the Bible about 75 years before going to be with Him for Eternity.

Our Congregation's Missions/Ministries most likely will finish the year in the red for our budget but we have reserves to cover the needs. Help us to finish the year well without having to go to our reserves. Your Congregation and Parish Councils are asking for an Advent/Christmas Offering to honor God's faithfulness to us as individuals and as Congregations/Parish. And as part of honoring God's faithfulness I would like us to consider Tithing (10%) of the amount received from this Offering to a Local or Global Project, like the Food Shelves or "Feed My Starving Children"

Here is my Life verse that keeps me from the unnecessary worry, Isaiah 40:31;

But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

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

Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. Philippians 4:20

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – DECEMBER 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.

NOV	DE
11-05 – Paul & Suzanne Grill	12-
11-12 – Paul & Suzanne Grill	12-
11-19 – Paul & Suzanne Grill	12-
11-26 – Paul & Suzanne Grill	12-2
	12-3

Quarter Bowl Offering for November and December will be donations for NVLC Good Sam Fund – Christmas Giving Tree.

Lutheran World Relief Kits

Thank you to everyone for your donations to Lutheran World Relief and a big thank you to those of you who helped to compile the kits and box the items for delivery. We were able to prepare 113 School backpacks, 51 Personal Care Kits and 3 Baby Care Kits. The quilters have at least 47 quilts ready to send and will probably have more before the upcoming shipment. Thank you.

WELCA - Be a Lucky Winner

Please remember to sell your WELCA raffle tickets and get them turned in. We have more tickets if you need them. You may mail them to the church or drop them off at the church by placing them in the WELCA mailbox, or by sliding them under the office door.

Drawing will be on December17, 2023 after church service. Prizes are a beautiful hand made quilt, a \$100 gift certificate to Daeffler Meats in Frederic, WI, and a \$50 gift card to Holiday Station. Good luck.

And thank you to the approximately 165 people who were able to enjoy the delicious meal. We are thankful for each of you.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

It's December already, which means that <u>January is not that far away!</u> Please think about being on the Church Council next year. Be a part of church leadership! This is an exciting time, when you can help welcome a new Pastor to the church/parish. There will be at least 3 open positions. The council meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month, and the term is 2 years.

If you have any questions, or are interested in sitting on the council, please contact Tricia Olson at 715-553-1728



С

-03 – <u>Paul & Suzanne Grill</u> -10 – Paul & Suzanne Grill -17 – Paul & Suzanne Grill -24 – Paul & Suzanne Grill -31 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

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

WELCA Christmas raffle tickets are now available. This year the drawing will be on December 17th. Prizes are a \$100 gift certificate to Daeffler's Meats, \$50 gas card, and quilt handmade by the WELCA ladies. The cost is still \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please pick up your tickets by Wednesday Nov. 8th (an envelope with your name are on a table at church) to save postage.

If you need additional tickets, contact Myrna Anderson or Jan Kruse.

We have Giving Tree tags on our Christmas tree located in the sanctuary. Don't forget to grab a tag or 2 to help make Christmas possible for 4 local families.

Please return the gift wrapped with the gift tag by Friday, December 15th.

The BRRRRR MONTHS—October, November, December

8:00 Faith Lutheran Balsam Lake

9:30 First Lutheran Cushing

11:00 North Valley Lutheran

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday November 8, 2023 6:30pm North Valley Lutheran, WI "United in Christ to strengthen our Ministries to adapt grow and serve" Present, Kristy W., Jo N., Monte H., Bob R., Leo H., Liz W., Chuck S. and Steve J. Tracy H., April S. and Charlie C. Absent

Welcome - Devotion - Steve J

Call to Order- Pres. Steve Jensen Secretary's Report – Tracy Hendrickson - Minutes of 08-23-2023 Motion to accept Chuck S./Bob R. -Carried **Bookkeepers Report** – Liz Williamson – Sent out – Current Balance in Checking \$105,275.82 Motion to accept Chuck S./Bob R. -Carried

Budget and Call Process –

Each Congregation still needs to budget \$4,000.00 a month for the 2024 Fiscal Year Possible monetary refunds/reductions to Congregation. Motion by Chuck S./Bob R. to move the Dues refund from December to November- Motion Carried Status of achieving \$125,000.00 Reserve Balance – We are on track to have that plus by the February Parish Annual Meeting.

Money market for up to 1 year and \$25,000.00 for up to 6 months.-Motion Carried

Ministry Report – Pres. Steve Jensen

November 19 will be Lay led using the WELCA Thankoffering Service omitting Communion Pulpit Supply- Pastor Peter is available for 2 Sundays in November 12 and 26. December 10, 24 I will be talking to him as to how far out he wants to go. Pastor Dave Natzke be with us for the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays going forward Dana Paulson -2nd year Seminary Student to cover as Schedule permits Pastor Tamra continues as our Visitation Pastor filling in as schedule permits.

Christmas Worship –

No service on Christmas day Dec 25 or the usual morning service on Sunday morning Dec 24 Services held late afternoon on Dec 24. Each church would have a service the times are 4:00pm Faith, 5:30pm First and 7:00pm North Valley.

Lenten Worship- Wed Feb 14 Ash Wednesday-Fri March 29 Good Friday Our Confirmation Students have no Class and are required to attend Mid-week Lenten Worship Ideas for the Lenten Services welcomed. Pastor Tamra with be leading the Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services.

Faith Education/Formation

Confirmation numbers First-4 - North 5 We are sharing with Luck Lutheran. Pastors Maggie and Mary Ann are leading it. Things are going well. Note: Pres. Steve J. had an email vote after this Meeting to pay Luck Lutheran for Pastor Mary Ann and Maggie's time, \$75 X 20hrs = \$1500 with majority in favor. This will be ratified at the February meeting

Parish Calendar- We change Worship times again on January 1, 2024 8am North Valley, 9:30an Faith and 11am First It was discussed about looking into one Service simulcast to all of the Churches at 9:30am and the Pastor alternating

Churches each week

Other Business

Next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm at First. It will be the Parish Annual Meeting Adjournment –Lord's Prayer

Respectfully, Steven C, Jensen, Pres. First Faith Lutheran Parish

It was discussed taking \$100,000.00 and putting that in CD's/Money markets where ever we get the best return. Motion by Monty H./Chuck S. to have Liz Williamson Parish Bookkeeper put \$75,000.00 in a CD/



SUNDAY SCHOOL BAKE SALE!



NORTH VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH



UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES NOVEMBER 5TH 9-10AM - BAKING GOODIES/TREATS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 19TH 9:45AM-11:15AM-SELLING EVENT FOR OUR BAKED GOODS-SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER TO SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS. OPEN TO PUBLIC. LOCATED DOWNSTAIRS

DECEMBER 3RD 9-10AM- PRACTICE CHRISTMAS SONG AND MAKE A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT.

DECEMBER 17TH - 10:45AM-11:45 -PERFORM CHRISTMAS SONG DURING 11:00 SERVICE. MEET DOWNSTAIRS AFTER FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL GIFT.

WILL SEND OUT SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY FORWARD, ON DEC 17TH. CALL SAM 763-688-1123 OR ANITA 715-554-3785 WITH QUESTIONS















BY JO ANN JENKINS, CEO

THE EMOTIONAL TOLL **OF BEING A CAREGIVER**

date, "Fixing the Caregiving System," there is legitimate progress in the quest to provide help to America's family caregivers.

Our nation is waking up to the fact that caregivers are essential to the well-being of families and our economy. Their sacrifices save lives and allow millions of older adults and others with long- or short-term illnesses or disabilities to receive treatment at home. They are a crucial part of our health care system and represent about \$600 billion of unpaid labor each year.

AARP is proud to be a leading voice in addressing the needs of our nation's 48 million unpaid caregivers. Together with federal, state and growing corporate support, we have accomplished much.

But we still have more to do. As the population ages, the demands on family caregivers are going to increase and take an even greater toll on their bodies and minds.

AARP's recent report, "A Look at U.S. Caregivers' Mental Health," asked people about the effect caregiving has on their physical and emotional health, their levels of stress and the ways they manage the pressure.

What we found is that most people said they were getting an adequate amount of support from friends and families, but that it didn't alleviate some of the strain that comes with the responsibility of caring for a loved one.

More than half of those we surveyed said caregiving increased their level of stress, worry, concern for the future and anxiety. The majority of caregivers with full-time

The first Sunday of the month, Suzanne will do blood pressure checks during coffee hour.

We need to come together to lighten the stress many feel

s you have read in this special up- | jobs suffer from mental health challenges, and many said they are too burned out to do their jobs as well as they want to. Clearly, America's caregivers are suffering-

YOUR LEVEL OF* 65% Stress 61% Worry 60% Concern about the future 57% Anxiety 45% Sadness/ depression 38% Loneliness 27% Anger ED ON A SURVE OF 1.001 U.S.

often in silence. At AARP, we understand the psychic burden that can accompany caregiving.

We know that women tend to deal with most of the load. And we know that young couples can be sandwiched between caring for their aging parents and their own children.

We hear your stories about having to choose between a job and caring for those you love.

AARP wants to make it our mission to be sure that America hears you as well, and that the country accelerates efforts to make your lives better.

While we applaud the growing bipartisan commitment to assist caregivers, we will continue to give voice to your struggle.

Just as airline safety instructions advise us to put on our oxygen masks before helping a child, we must equip caregivers to protect themselves as they face the rigors of their compassionate service to others.

I am optimistic we will continue to make progress.

In our survey, caregivers reported that despite the multitude of challenges they face, helping a family member or friend in need has a positive effect on their lives. It brings a sense of purpose and pride.

Caregiving spans the spectrum. It touches every race, religion and income bracket.

When we come together to lighten the burden for caregivers, we reaffirm what it means to be an American family. That is something we should all feel good about. ■