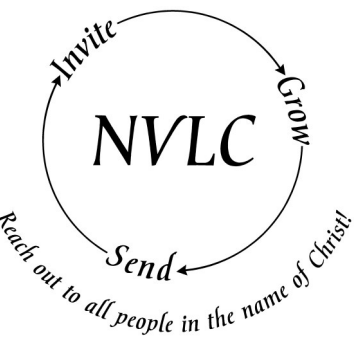


North Valley Lutheran Church
Member of First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish

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



Worship Schedule

11:00am Worship All Sundays in January 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
1988 220th Ave. Centuria WI 54824 715-825-3559 office@nvlch.org www.nvlch.org

First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish Corner

January, 2026

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

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year to all! May your New Year be filled with, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

We are entering our fifth year as the First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish joining us as our Worship/Spiritual Leaders are Pastor Neal Weltzin 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. Pastor Neal is continuing to help us while we look for another Co-Bridge Pastor. In the mean time we all needed to be praying that the Lord will send us a full time Pastor/s for out Parish.

Faith Lutheran Fire -

As we all know Faith suffered a devastating fire in the early morning hours of Sunday November 23rd. After receiving the text from Tracy of the fire, I notified our Pastors as well as the surrounding Congregations. We came together that morning at 11am for a time of Worship and morning. Pastor Peter led our time together, Pastors Neal and Tamra were there as well as Pastor Mary Ann Bowman for Luck, Our Lady of mthe Lakes Catholic Church sent representatives to show their support as well in this time of loss and need. Pastor Randy Olson from the Synod arrived afterwards as he was in the area doing pulpit supply. He had communicated with Bishop Martin Halom about what had transpired. Bishop Martin reach out to me the next day with a resource for us and that was Pr Elisabeth Beir, Pr Maggie's daughter. Pr Elisabeth leads a 3pt Parish on the eastside of our Synod. One of her Congregations' had a fire a year ago July and they are still working through the loss and rebuilding. She said that they rejoice that no one was hurt but, still grieve at anniversaries or holidays but continue to move forward spreading the Good News in Jesus.

We as a Parish stand beside our Sisters and Brothers of Faith and offer whatever help we can, looking forward that Sunday Morning we gather as a Parish in the refurbish Sanctuary to celebrate its Rebirth/Rrededication as a one of our 3 Worship spaces.

Confirmation – This year we only have one student and he is from North Valley. I get regular reports from Pastor Mary Ann at Luck about how Confirmation is going and what the kids are doing. She calls me and tells me what a great student we have and they enjoy having them. Of course we all knew that!!

Worship:

Lent begins February 18, 2026 with Ash Wednesday thru April 3, 2026. Yes, the Baby Jesus just came a few days ago! We will as a Parish will again be joining Luck Lutheran at Luck on our Lenten Journey as we support our Confirmation students on their Faith Journey. Our Journey starts with Ash Wednesday February 18th at Luck with Study/Worship 6:15-7:15pm+/- . The following Wednesdays March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 5:30pm-6:15pm Soup Supper with Study/Worship 6:15-7:15pm+/- . We as in past year each of our churches will provide one of the Suppers. Maundy Thursday April 2nd and April 3rd Good Friday will be at Luck Lutheran to finish the Lenten series. Our Confirmation Youth are strongly urged to attend Lenten Worship. This way we can see them interact with the other 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 again this year.

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 visited with Bishop Martin during this past year about our needs and he is aware of our situation. The one thing he continues to applaud us for is, how the Lay Leadership of each Congregation is stepping up to fill the needs as well as looking for ways to expand their ministries in the

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.	

absence of a full time Pastor/s. While he is still new to the position of Bishop, he is working with Pastors Randy Olson and Dianne House exploring other options for filling open Congregations and Parishes. We need to again remind ourselves that there are more open Congregations and Parishes than available Pastors not only in our Synod but the Synods that adjoin us both in Wisconsin and Minnesota. 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. We have \$125,000.00 that the Parish Council set for our reserve (one year’s salary and benefits for a full time Pastor). We made adjustments to the Congregational contributions from \$4000 to \$1250 a month. We are paying our expenses and having some left over.

Each Congregation need to remember to budget for \$4000 a month even though we are paying \$1250 so that in the event we call a Pastor, we can start moving back to the \$4000 a month when it is needed.

We are working on the Parish Budget and the Parish Worship Calendar for 2026 and reviewing the Parish Agreement for any changes.

Parish Calendar -

- Worship times** - January –March 2026 - 8am Faith, 9:30am First, 11am North Valley
- 2026 Annual Meeting Date** - January 25, 2026 following Parish worship at First 10:45am
- Next Parish Council meeting** - Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 6:30 pm at First – Organizational

It has been a privilege to serve as your Parish President and administrator these past years.

Seeing and hearing what our Students have done during that time, as well as what our Congregations are accomplishing makes my job very gratifying.

As I always close my major communications with the following, I see our youth embracing it. May we do so as well.

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, Pres. FFVLP

“Luke’s Vision for the People of God” - Acts

This continues to be the theme for January as we look at Dr. Luke’s other book, **Acts**. This is a fitting theme as we continue through Christmas-Our Lords Birth, Epiphany, as Luke’s Gospel gives us the life of Jesus from his birth to his ascension. The book of **Acts** gives us the birth and life of the Church thought today. And if you think that things have changed in the last two thousand years, put your name and in the place of those people and events and then tell me that things have changed.

We are entering our fifth year as the First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish with Pastor Neil Weltzin as our Pastor 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. Working **TOGETHER** to do the Mission and Ministry we are called to do by Jesus at his Ascension. The trials we may face individually going forward are nothing compared to what those early believers faced. Our sisters and brothers at Faith are facing trials at this time following the fire of November 23rd that damaged their Church building. We stand together with them during this time just as those believers of old.

The following excerpt is from the book “Adventuring Through the Bible” by Ray C. Stedman found in the chapter on the book of **Acts** sets us up for the reading the book of the Bible.

“The essence of the book of **Acts**, is the account of the way the Holy Spirit, moving through the church, continued what Jesus began to do in His earthly ministry. So the record of the Gospels is the story of only the beginning of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you come to end of the Gospels, you have come not to the end, nor even to the beginning of the end, but to the end of the beginning. In the book Acts, the Holy Spirit now begins to fulfill the program of God. He begins to carry on His work through the reincarnated body of Jesus Christ-the church.

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3
4 8:00 Faith 9:30 First 11:00 North Valley Pastor Neal Communion 9:30 Sunday School	5 Office hrs 9-4	6	7 9:30 Worship Committee Meeting	8 9:30 Remove Christmas Decorations	9	10
11 8:00 Faith 9:30 First 11:00 North Valley Pastor Peter 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Council Meeting	12 Office hrs 9-4	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:00 Faith 9:30 First 11:00 North Valley Pastor Neal Communion 9:30 Sunday School	19 Office hrs 9-4 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:30 First Combined Service Pastor Peter 9:30 Sunday School	26 Office hrs 9-4	27	28	29	30	31



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kuenkel, Grant	01/02/2005
Gronquist, Wren	01/03/2024
Mabry, Cindy	01/04/1959
Hansen, Kenny	01/07/1949
Olson, Seth	01/07/1983
Wagner, Payton	01/09/2011
Heilig, Boyd	01/10/1978
Stage, Mitchell	01/11/1994
Olien, Iris	01/12/2022
Sandberg, Kaiden	01/13/2024
Sandberg, Kinsley	01/13/2024
Hacker, Mary Jo	01/16/1964
McIntyre, Ruby	01/16/2014
Ditsch, Bob	01/18/1952
Kuenkel, Aaron	01/25/1972
Kruse, Andy	01/27/1991
Mabry, Sandy	01/31/1963



Allen Metcalf	01/??/1958
Brady Olien	01/01/2003
Susan Andersen	01/01/1965
Cheri Chapplear	01/02/1953
Dane Olson	01/08/1989
Boe Carlson	01/13/2010
Kasey Oullette	01/24/1993
River Olson	01/27/2019
Elverna Blomgren	01/28/1940
Oaklynn Olson	01/28/2018



01/08/2010	Todd & Amanda Wagner
01/10/2018	Keith & Heidi Simmerman
01/13/1979	Marvin & Lori Sloper



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

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

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.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He exchanged His own resurrected body on earth for a different kind of body on earth-the church, which the New Testament calls "the body of Christ." Instead of a single human body that can be in either Galilee or Samaria or Judea and that must stop every now and then to sleep, He now has a body that reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth and is active twenty-four hours a day! We now live in the age of the Spirit--an age inaugurated on the day of Pentecost, the first major event of the book of Acts.

The Holy Spirit gives us the outline of the book of Acts in a very well-known verse, chapter 1, verse 8--our Lord's words to the disciples:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you ... "

That statement encompasses the first two chapters of Acts--the chapters concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Lord, in 1:8, goes on to say:

"... and you will be my witnesses ... "

That is the theme of the rest of Acts, chapters 3 through 28. The concluding phrase of Acts 1:8 then divides chapters 3 through 28 into several parts:

"... in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. "

As we read Luke's book of Acts, we see ourselves as the people of the Body going out empowered by Him/ the Holy Spirit to tell others about this man Jesus and what he has done for you/me. I would like to encourage everyone to read the book of **Acts** this month. You can do it any way that works for you but with 28 chapters that is one chapter a day for the month.

The Alter hangings for this month are white for Christmas through Epiphany 2 and then Green until Ash Wednesday February 18th.

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

Thank you to the Parish Choir for going to United Pioneer Home singing and visiting with the folks.

We will not be practicing in the month of January 2026, but will start again in February on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. Come and join us!!

Thank You to the North Valley Sunday School children for making the very nice Christmas Cards for the folks at the United Pioneer Home for our service on December 14, 2025.

Happy New Year to all!!

~Carol Medchill

Please continue to keep Faith Lutheran Church and its entire congregation in your prayers, 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.

“Why am I always so cold?”

Dr. Adam: Several reasons can explain why we’re more likely to feel chilled to the bone as we age.

First, our metabolism slows down. As we burn calories, our bodies generate heat. If our metabolism isn’t running on full blast, we’ll feel colder.

Second, the fat layer under the skin starts to thin as we age. That layer of fat is insulation that works to conserve our body’s heat. The thinner the layer of fat gets, the colder you may feel.

Hands and feet typically feel the coldest. That’s because as we age, our blood vessels lose their elasticity, which reduces the ease of blood flow, especially to our extremities.

Moving our bodies keeps us warmer. Since older folks generally don’t move as quickly, we’re going to get colder, faster.

Some medical conditions—such as diabetes, low thyroid levels (called hypothyroidism), and certain types of heart disease and anemia—can also contribute to our body’s temperature dropping.

And there are some commonly prescribed drugs that can contribute to making you feel chilly. Blood pressure medications, particularly beta-blockers, can make you feel cold because they slow down your heart rate, which may reduce blood flow to your hands and feet.

How can you warm up? Pay attention to your core. In the winter, I wear a thin vest under my suit jacket, and then I wear a coat over that. The layers keep me cozy.

Preparation is important too. Let’s say you know that you’re going to be taking a long walk on a frigid day. Once you’re very cold, it takes a long time to warm up again. If you can, plan for places where you can take a break from the cold before that happens.



Adam B. Rosenbluth, M.D., practices and teaches in New York City. Each Monday online, he answers your questions about how to make your body work better for you.

WANT MORE DR. ADAM?
Go to aarp.org/AskDrAdam



MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – JANUARY 2026

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.

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

- 01-04 – Tricia Olson
- 01-11 – Tricia Olson
- 01-18 – Tricia Olson
- 01-25 – Tricia Olson

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD SHELF: In November, 67 households were served – 125 adults and 15 children. 58 volunteer hours. Donations: Money \$1489. Weight of food coming in 3,117#, (Includes TEFAP, purchased food donations), Weight of food going out 3,598#.

Items needed: stuffing mix, gravy, cheese, vegetables: canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, spaghetti 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 January and February is for Feed My Neighbor Food Shelf.

WELCA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to all who helped sell and to those who purchased raffle tickets for the WELCA Christmas Raffle. The drawing was held on Sunday, December 21. Winner of the holiday Christmas basket is Bette Tooley; winner of the \$100 Daeffler Quality Meat Certificate is Sandy Mabry, and winner of the \$50 Circle K card is Tristan Divine. Congratulations and thank you everyone.

WORSHIP TIMES - JANUARY –MARCH 2026

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



Every Sunday at 9:30 am