

**DECEMBER
2021**



A publication of North Valley Lutheran Church

North Valley Message

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

1 Corinthians 13 The Excellence of Love

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but have not love [for others growing out of God's love for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction]. And if I have the gift of prophecy [and speak a new message from God to the people], and understand all mysteries, and [possess] all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love [reaching out to others], I am nothing

Love is the foundation of our trust and hope in God and our interactions with one another. This verse in Corinthians is often used for weddings but it means so much more in everyday life. Especially, as a Pastor that I speak in love, and not speak as a noisy cymbal. As a Pastor, that I do not just share knowledge but speak a message from God to his people. As a Pastor, that I do not hold my faith for myself but to reach out in action to all people. We are all conduits of God's love reaching into the world with love, sharing God's hope, light, joy and peace...with LOVE.

And Love is what I feel for all of you at North Valley. So I am hurting and saddened to share that I gave my notice to the Council to end my call as of January 30, 2022. Hopefully, right after you have your Annual Meeting and have some clarity as to your future.

God called me into ministry and into each church I have served...hopefully, I have listened and followed whatever God wanted to make known. As you all know, God is not real clear on exactly what we are to do when given a call...just do it!

That is the test of Faith, to follow wherever God leads. And then we are to have some sense of peace in that process...like trusting that God has your back or that God has filled you with the right words, thoughts, and directions.

Isn't that what the shepherds did that night so long ago? Stopped what they were doing, caring for the sheep and take off for the city to see what was causing the star and the angels excitement. It wasn't one shepherd but all of them that saw this site, followed, and realized the extraordinary brilliance of the Babe in the Manger, Jesus.

Something marvelous! Isn't that what we feel each Christmas Eve when family, friends gather and we remember jointly the meaning of Christmas, the love of God, came down incarnate in Jesus Christ. A love so great, it changes us forever, to be that love in the world where we share the message of God's love and peace and living it out each and every day.

May each of you feel that love inside, know the Lord loves you, will always be there for You; won't let you go. God came down...for YOU! Let that Love shine in all that you do. Christmas Blessings,
Pastor D.



Missionaries in Japan

Missionaries in Japan

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – DECEMBER 2021

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

- 11-07 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 11-14 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 11-21 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 11-28 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

DECEMBER

- 12-05 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-12 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-19 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-26 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

Local Food Shelves: Any food items donated are always appreciated.



OUR FINANCIAL REPORT

Income for October-\$18120.40
 Expenses for October \$17296.74
 —Al Arndt, Treasurer

TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Will be delivered around December 17, 2021 by

Luck High School FFA
 Luck, WI 54853

Make your checks payable to WELCA and give to Myrna Anderson (715-825-2585). Orders need to be in by **December 5, 2021.** Thank you!

Circle color – write in quantity ordered.

Pot Size – Price – Colors Available	Qty.
6" Red Poinsettia \$8.00	
6" White Poinsettia \$8.00	

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

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 in the WELCA mailbox, or by sliding them under the office door.

Drawing will be on December 19, 2021. Prizes are a beautiful "Up North" quilt sewn by Gwen Morrissette, a \$50 gift certificate to Daeffler Meats in Frederic, WI, and an 18" doll with wardrobe sewn by Sue Saarem. Best wishes to all!



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.

**EVERYTHING YOU HAVE IS A GIFT FROM GOD.
PUT FAITH INTO ACTION**

North Valley continues on through your regular contributions of even a one-time gift. There are several ways to get your donations to the church. You can put it in the offering if you are here in person, send it through the mail, or drop it off anytime. There is also automatic withdrawal from your bank account that you set up for once or twice a month. (You can pick up the form any time at church on the table under the bulletin board.) It can also be done online through Pay Pal, Tithly, or scanning. (All you do with this is take a picture of this symbol with your phone and you will automatically be directed to a form to fill out.)

Please consider a gift before the end of the year.



From the Parish Nurse

Greetings friends at North Valley!

The heaviness of an object is not gauged by its actual weight, but by the length of time you have to hold it. The Covid pandemic is making me weary! Unrelenting stress can wear one down to hopelessness and depression. Please use the information and tips for self care in the article insert from the Mayo Clinic. If you'd like to talk more about it, I'd be glad to listen. I have a flexible schedule so contact me for a time to sit and talk together. Confidentiality assured!

Wish You a Blessed Holiday Season!



December Calendar where all of you are invited to participate, share in the activities and be a safe place to reconnect with the church family.

Dec 1, 9:00 am – Lefse... YOU are INVITED

Come and make lefse, bring a rolling pin or not, and have some flour fun.

Dec 2, 6:30 pm, Joint meeting of Faith/Balsam, First/Cushing and North Valley

North Valley Fireside room to discuss Parish Formation. What does First, Faith, North Valley Parish sound like? How does the Mission statement: United in Christ to strengthen our Ministries to adapt, grow and serve? Join this meeting and give your input.

Dec 16th, 6:30 – Joint Parish Meeting 6:30, Balsam, next meeting

Dec 12th, 3:30-5 – Christmas Around the Word...Drive through

Come join in the action, volunteer to be a character from around the world...or bring your family and friends....Drive through and learn how people around the world practice Christmas.

Lots of fun things to interact with and learn new ways to practice love and joy of Christmas.

Dec 13th, Deadline for gifts for the Giving Tree, turn them in and we will send them out! We hope to have 10 families. If you know of

Dec 14th, 6:30 – Council Meeting (One week early this month) Volunteering for Council next year, let Don P. know to put you on the list.

Dec 19th, Quilt Raffle, WELCA has lots of stuff so get into the raffle...we have tickets.

Dec 24th 4:00, CHRISTMAS EVE, Communion Service of Celebration of Jesus Birth. Gather the families together and remember this earth shattering event, Christ's Birth.

Dec 26th, 9:30, Sunday Service of Christmas Hymns...sing out and celebrate!

Let's Celebrate...

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

12/01/1991	Jared Theim
12/04/2016	Aubree Muzquiz
12/05/1948	Joyce Wagner
12/07/1969	Mitch Hopkins
12/08/2019	Josephine Livingston
12/08/2013	Jonathon Buss
12/11/2005	Lexis Olson
12/12/1943	Verle Hacker
12/13/1959	Brad Hacker
12/13/2015	Colton Buss
12/19/2010	Eddie Reh
12/19/1993	Katie Hallgren
12/21/1952	Paul Grill
12/23/2018	Kaylee Olson

BIRTHDAYS

Melin, Rudy	12/04
Fisk, Randi	12/04
Egge, Beth	12/07
Erickson, Billie	12/07
Olson, Dan	12/09
Woltz, Kyle	12/10
Christensen, Scarlett	12/10
Livingston, Dan	12/12
Ouellette, Jaisa	12/14
Ouellette, Kasey	12/14
Woltz, Kora	12/15
Johnson, Anita	12/16
Kuenkel, Kristie	12/16
Saarem, Matt	12/16
Erickson, Holden	12/19
Divine, Scott	12/21
Metcalf, Allen	12/22
Morales, Landon	12/23
Buss, Eric	12/26

Birthdays (cont.)

Stage, Jeff	12/26
Odberg, Grace	12/29
Wagner, Jake	12/30
Bengtson, Doug	12/31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Suzanne Grill	12/21	69
Brad & Mary Jo Hacker	12/13	62
Eddie Reh & Anita Johnson	12/19	11



We have been praying for...

Leif Bever, Cameron Collins, Sephonia Cowans, Susie Fisk, Randall Krueger, Amelia McKinney, Maria Morales, Teresa Studie, Dana Tellijohn, Rick Pederson, Jim Dishon (Suzanne Grill's son), Josiah Draves (Katie Hallgren's partner), Sharon Johnson (Anita Johnson's mother), Matt Kludt (Kristie Wagner's nephew), Rhonda Krueger & Rebecca Kalstad (Randall & Glenda Krueger's daughter & granddaughter), Carolyn Nelson (Tristan Divine's mother), Michael Trumble (Krueger's grandson), Mary Pollock

Continued Healing: Scott Divine, Bev Hopkins, Anita Johnson, Carleen Matosky, Marilynn Nehring

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
Comforts of Home — Lois Baldwin



Donna Berg	715-825-2312
Myrna Anderson	715-825-2585
Carol Bengtson	715-646-2003
Jim & Gwen Morrisette	715-825-2318
Anita Johnson	715-554-3785

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.

Giving Tree (November 28)



As you know we must get started on the Giving Tree early so the gifts are distributed before Christmas. With Covid and with a (supposedly) gift shortage this year we think gift cards would be best. We can ask if they want them to provide suggestions for gifts and we get them but we would let the families know that if we can't find the gift, we will give gift cards. So begin to think what you would like to do as the Giving Tree will go up Nov 28th...first Sunday in Advent. Other options is giving directly to the Good Samaritan fund which does pick up any difference of gift tags not covered.



Global Christmas Drive Through (December 12, 3-4:30)

It's back! The famous Christmas Drive through where we share the Christmas story with our neighbors through a scenic drive through to hear and see the Christmas story. We will have 7 stations: Polynesian (the true flower children), Indigenous (Alaskan and Penguin too), Scandinavian (where we sell our lefse), Latino (Pinata for the kiddos), African (drumming), Asian (Christ arises from the mud)...and the Manger scene of the true meaning of Christmas. Of course we will need a few carolers and some towns people to share in the love of the season. Check your calendars, find a station, add some of your own costumes that maybe you have around the house. WE just received a Hawaiian Mumu and Japanese embroidered jacket. It is just cool wearing the clothing and sharing how each population shares in the Birth of Christ. Help us make our second year of sharing the Christmas Story a success. Sign up board is in the Fireside Room!

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																								
		GIVING TREE 	1 9am Leftse	2 6:30pm Joint Parish Mtg at NV	3	4																																																								
5 9:30am Worship Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																								
12 9:30am Worship Communion Christmas Around the World Drive-thru 3-4:30	13 Giving tree gifts deadline	14 6:30 Church Council	15	16 6 :eopm Joint Parish Mtg	17	18																																																								
19 9:30 Worship COMMUNION QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING	20 January Newsletter deadline	21	22	23	24 Service 4pm  <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25  <i>Christmas DAY</i>																																																								
26 9:30am Worship COMMUNION SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS HYMNS	27	28	29	30	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2022</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	January 2022							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
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Worship Schedule

9:30am Worship

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

Pastor D. Sandahl
Cell Phone: 651.442.6770
Email: pastor@nvlch.org

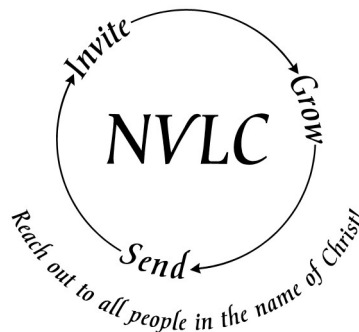
Church Email: office@nvlch.org

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

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

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

Bulletin announcements are due Thursdays before 9:00am.



Staff & Church Council

Interim Pastor	Dorothy Sandahl 651.442.6770
Admin. Asst.	Laurene Edge
Accompanist	Sue Saarem
Parish Nurse	Suzanne Grill
Custodian	Kristie Kuenkel
Co-Presidents	Kristie Wagner Don Prose
Vice President	Dan Livingston
Secretary	Tricia Olson
Treasurer	Al Arndt
Other Council Members	Charlie Christensen Bev Hopkins Jeff Kruse
W/ELCA Reps.	Myrna Anderson Donna Berg Suzanne Grill Jan Kruse
Youth Rep.	