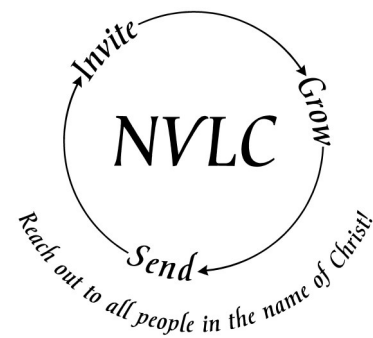


North Valley Lutheran Church
Member of First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish

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



2024



Worship Schedule

8:00am 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

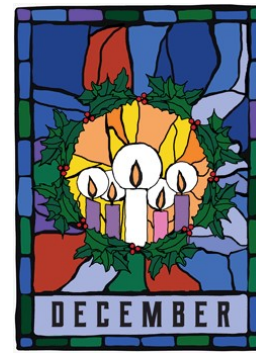
Admin. Asst.: Laurene Edge
9:00am-4:00pm Mondays

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 Tuesdays before 11:00am.

Pastoral Support: Pastor Tamra Harder 715-501-3681



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

December, 2024

"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.**

As I looked for verses for the Advent Season (a time of preparation/waiting) these verses from Hebrews spoke to the time of Advent-Christmas to me, while Joy and Peace are not mentioned you see and feel them in the words.

Hebrews 10:23-25 NRSVUE

²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our **hope** without wavering, for he who has promised is **faithful.** ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to **love** and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 11: 1-3 NRSVUE

1 Now **faith** is the assurance of things **hoped** for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by **faith** our ancestors received approval. ³ By **faith** we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Parish Council Items-

Confirmation – All is going well with the Confirmation Program. We have 4 students. Pastor Mary Ann Bowman is leading Confirmation. She has one more Mission/Field Trip planned for this year THANK YOU Pastor Mary Ann!!

Our Pastor Team - Pastors Dave and Peter continue bringing the message each week and Pastor Tamra has been our Visitation Pastor calling on people as needed and helping member through Life events.

Thank you Pastors!!

A reminder that, Pastor Dave has informed the Parish Council that his last Sunday with us will be **December 29, 2024** due to health reasons. I am working with the Synod not only to find a Pastor to call but to fill Pastor Dave’s spot on our Bridge Pastor Team in the meantime. Pastor Tamra will be filling in from time to time as well until we fill Pastor Dave’s spot.

We are planning a **Thank You reception** for Pastor Dave and Nila following Parish Worship on **Sunday December 29** of refreshments and treats. Please plan to join us for Worship and the reception to say Thank You and Wish them well.

We are doing well financially, meeting payroll and other expenses.

Advent - Christmas Worship: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at Faith

A Parish Advent Service will be held with Bishop Martin Halom, Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at Faith. **Fellowship meal begins at 5pm; Service at 6:30pm.** Faith – Main Dish; North Valley – Salads; First – Breads and Desserts

Bishop Halom will be bringing the message **“Hanging on to Hope”**. The Parish choir will sing, maybe the Bishop will play his trumpet?! The Confirmation students will have parts in the Worship.

We will have communion as well.

Christmas Eve Worship times **4pm North Valley, 5:30 Faith, 7pm First.** These will be Lay Lead Julie Dunn of North Valley:

There will be no service on Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25.

Remember the Newsletter Calendar is your friend. Please consider Worshiping with one of the other Churches if the time for your home Church does not work for you on a particular Sunday.

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	Bette Tooley
Treasurer	Tom Tellijohn
Other Council Members	Jan Kruse Myron Olson Joey Nelson Don Prose Marilyn Nehring
W/ELCA Reps.	Myrna Anderson Donna Berg Suzanne Grill Tricia Olson Joey Nelson

Youth Rep.

As we continue on our present **Journey** as members of the First Faith Valley Lutheran Parish with Pastors Peter, Tamra, and Dave to look at how we will need to change as we look how we have done Ministry and how we will do Ministry going forward. We each as a **Child of God** need to live **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 God** Listening to/for His **Call** (Romans 8:16-17)? What am I being **called** to do as a **Child of God** to do as part of this **Journey** and beyond? We 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.

The Parish Worship Schedule

So, for December it is **8am North Valley, 9:30am Faith** and **11am First**.

The **last Sunday of the month** will be a **Parish Worship** at **9:30 at Faith**, November 24th Christ the King Sunday and December 29th New Year’s Eve.

January –March, 2025 **8am First, 9:30am North Valley** and **11am Faith**.

The Altar Paraments

The Season of **Advent** is here (Sunday December 1st) the Altar Paraments change to Blue as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’s first coming as a baby born in a cold, drafty, smelly stable and laid in a manger (we do not have it so bad, do we?). As we continue to work together as Congregations and a Parish with looking to **Build/Grow New** relationships with our fellow workers for God’s Kingdom as well as **Refreshing** our current relationships with each other.

Listen for that “Still Small Voice” in the rushing wind.

2025 Parish Annual Meeting Date January 26, 2025 following Parish worship at North Valley

Parish Council meeting Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm at North Valley – Organizational

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)

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”

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 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

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First BP Checks after church Pastor Dave Natzke Communion 9:30 Sunday School	2 Office hrs 9-4 10am Bible Class @ NV with Pastor Dave	3	4 4:30 pm Choir Practice @ Faith 5pm Parish Service w/the Bishop @ Faith	5 9am Lefse making day at NV	6	7 10am Advent Brunch at NVLC w/Parish WELCA and sister church Little Falls
8 8:00 North Valley 9:30 Faith 11:00 First Pastor Peter 9:30 Sunday School	9 Office hrs 9-4	10	11 1pm Choir Practice 6p-7:30p Confirmation at Luck Lutheran (note longer time)	12	13	14
15 8:00 North Valley with Short Children's program 9:30 Faith 9:30 First Children's Christmas Service Pastor Dave Communion 9:30 Sunday School	16 Office hrs 9-4 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Council Mtg	17	18 1pm Choir Practice	19	20	21 Noon-6pm Livingston Wedding
22 9:30 Faith 9:30 North Valley Children's Christmas Service WELCA Raffle Drawing 11:00 First	23 Office hrs 9-4	24	25 4pm Christmas Eve Service at NVLC led by Julie Dunn 	26	27	28
29 9:30 Faith Combined service Pastor Dave Communion 9:30 Sunday School	30 Office hrs 9-4	31				

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
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

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BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY

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



Polk-Burnett co-op hosts 17th-annual holiday gift drive for local kids

Submitted by Joan O'Fallon
CENTURIA – Co-op members and the public are invited to join Polk-Burnett employees and directors by donating new, unwrapped gifts for local children. Donations will be collected through Dec. 9 at Polk-Burnett offices in Siren and Centuria during office hours. "Our annual gift drive demonstrates our cooperative values and support for local youth and community," said Joan O'Fallon, Polk-Burnett communications director. "We invite you to join us and thank you for your generosity. Together, we can help make the season bright for local kids."
Polk-Burnett in Centuria, 1001 State Hwy. 35, is collecting gifts for Operation Christmas to benefit Polk County children.
Polk-Burnett in Siren, 7298 State Hwy. 70, is collecting gifts for Interfaith Caregivers Christmas for Kids to benefit Burnett County children.
Gift ideas for toddlers to teens include games, toys, books, blankets, hats, mittens, coats and gift cards.
For more information, contact Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, 800-421-0283.

OUR FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$12,177.09
CREDITS:	6,242.75
DEBITS:	5,895.55
ENDING BALANCE:	12,524.29

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

10 easy steps to healthier eating

You don't need to turn your life upside down to eat for better health. A few simple changes can make a big difference in your daily diet.

1. Have at least on serving of fruit at each meal and another as a snack during the day.
2. Switch from a low-fiber breakfast cereal to a higher fiber cereal or other breakfast food.
3. Lighten your milk by moving one step down in fat content-from 2 to 1 percent, for instance, or from 1 percent fo fat-free (skim).
4. Whenever you can, cook with olive, canola or another vegetable oil instead of butter or margarine.
5. Choose whole-grain breads instead of white bread and switch from white rice to brown rice.
6. Include at least two servings of vegetables at lunch.
7. Include at least two servings of vegetables at dinner.
8. Have fish as a main course at least twice a week.
9. Serve fresh fruit for dessert in place of foods rich in calories and fat.
10. Instead of high-calorie sweetened beverages, drink water or unsweetened beverages.



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

Continued Healing: Sharon Johnson, Matt Kludt, Amelia McKinney

Send words of encouragement:

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Dana Tellijohn, Grace Odberg, Athelene Simon

Homebound: —, Delores Anderson, Charles & Cari Mayo

Carol Bengtson, Mary Lundquist, Elverna Blomgren

Condolences to the family of Rowan Anderson



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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

It has been about a year since I started to serve as a fill-in pastor at FFVP. At the Annual meeting of the Parish this past January I signed a 12 month contract along with Pastor Peter and Pastor Tamara to serve through the end of January 2025. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to lead worship several times each month. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to get to know so many fellow servants of Jesus Christ. It has been enjoyable leading a Bible Class on Mondays.

But the time has come for me to step back from my role at FFVP. I have had some health issues that don't seem to be getting any better. After much prayerful consideration I would like to end my contract as of December 31st of this year. This is not an easy decision to make. It has been fulfilling watching the Parish as you learn the various ways that you can support each other. The future remains unknown but your purpose hasn't changed since each congregation came into existence. The congregations exist in order to share the good news in Jesus Christ in your community. May Jesus continue to send shepherds for the flock!

In Christ,

Pastor Dean Matthe



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS EVERY SUNDAY AND ALWAYS AT 9:30.

Children of all ages are welcome!

**Sunday, December 15th
8:00 AM Worship, with short
Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 22nd
worship will be at 9:30 with a
Children's Message. Julie
Dunn will lead worship.**

**These hard working kiddos sponsored
9 kids for Christmas this year with the
funds they made from our class bake
sale! Thank you to all!**



Advent Worship with Bishop Martin Halom.

Wednesday December 4, 2024

Faith Lutheran, Balsam Lake

5pm Fellowship Meal with the Bishop – Faith will provide the hot dish, First will provide the breads and desserts, North Valley will provide salads.

6:30pm Worship with the Bishop - The theme for the evening “Hanging on to Hope”



It is that time of year already, when we start planning for next year.. There will be 4 council positions becoming available next year, and we would love it if you would consider joining this leadership group. The meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION – DECEMBER 2024

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

- 11-03 –
- 11-10 –
- 11-17 –
- 11-24 –

DECEMBER

- 12-01 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-08 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-15 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-22 – Paul & Suzanne Grill
- 12-29 – Paul & Suzanne Grill

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD SHELF: In October, 57 households were served – 95 adults and 16 children. 59 volunteer hours. Donations: Money \$345. Weight of food coming in 3,420#, (Includes TEFAP, purchased food donations), Weight of food going out 2,981#.

Items needed: fresh produce, eggs, milk, mayonnaise, crackers, cookies, and personal products for men and women.

We had seven new families visiting the food shelf.

We are always in need of plastic grocery bags and smaller boxes. We are currently operating with two interim food shelf coordinators. We would like to get a full time coordinator. We will train people who are interested. 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 22, 2024. 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 22, 2024. Prizes are a handcrafted round Christmas table topper, a holiday table runner sewn by Gwen Morrissette, a \$100 gift certificate to Daeffler Meats in Frederic, WI, and a \$50 gift card at Circle K. Best wishes to all!

Our confirmation youth have been learning about global and local food insecurity. On Wednesday, November 6 we brought our food donations to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Luck. They learned about how the food pantry works and who can access it. The families of our confirmation youth donated 271 pounds of food and \$165 in monetary donations for our local pantry. Thank you, everyone! Well done, good and faithful servants!

