

# North Valley Message

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

## Pastor's Corner

### Ephesians 3

<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to **know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

In our current times, we want to become knowledgeable, to be in charge of whatever direction we are going. And yet this Scripture tells us that Christ's love surpasses knowledge. We cannot learn more than what Christ can do as He dwells in our hearts, in our faith. Are we allowing Christ to dwell in our hearts?

Insecurity arise so often, as we try to be assured of making the right decisions in our lives, in work, in health, in our church. There are so many unknowns. Things are not the same as they were a year ago in any of these areas of life. So allowing Christ to give direction may be easier than thinking we HAVE to know and be RIGHT!

How do we 'let' God guide our paths? How can we integrate God into our decision making? Does it mean we give up all knowledge? First, God wants you knowledgeable, to be aware of your environment and current happenings. Then ask God to enter, help us to understand, to move forward in thoughtful ways and to allow our faith to inspire and direct our decision making. Finally, breath in God's Spirit and listen to what comes out. God gives us messages when we focus, come to God and allow God to enter.

That is what is happening in the church right now. Time to gain some information, listen to others, gather facts, ask questions in this process of looking for new partners in leading the church forward into the future. In this whole process, bring God to enable you to understand and process information in the most positive thinking. Finally, breath in God's Spirit and listen to what comes out, what you feel is right, what gives you peace. God is in the process with you and will enable you to make the right decisions, when you allow God to lead.

We've had a year together to reflect on where you came from, the history of North Valley. Then we sought out Vision words and created goals to go with them. And now we are gathering facts of what process to move forward with. God is leading and guiding you to have peace in the process. KNOW that God's Love is greater than all our knowledge. Peace be with you. —Pastor D.

I pray that ... Christ may dwell in  
your hearts through faith.



as you are being  
rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17, NRSV

## Missionaries in Japan

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.

### PLEASE SIGN UP TO SPONSOR OUR MISSIONARIES.

#### August

08-01 – Don & Myrna Anderson  
 08-08 – Don & Myrna Anderson  
 08-15 – Don & Myrna Anderson  
 08-22 – Don & Myrna Anderson  
 08-29 – Don & Myrna Anderson

#### September

09-05 – Matt & Sue Saarem  
 09-12 – Matt & Sue Saarem  
 09-19 – Matt & Sue Saarem  
 09-26 – Matt & Sue Saarem



## Lutheran World Relief

It is time to pack Lutheran World Relief Kits. If you have donations for **ANY OF THE KITS**, please drop off in baskets in church entry, at your earliest opportunity so we may include the needed items. Any and all donated items are appreciated. If you are willing and interested to help pack kits soon, please contact Myrna Anderson so you can be included in the scheduling.

## Thank You!

A big thank you to all that helped serve the noon lunch at the Milltown Fishermen's Party on Sunday, August 15. Preparation began on Friday by a team that made the sloppy joe mix and wrapped all the krispie bars and brownies. On Sunday morning the beans and sloppy joes were put in the roasters and started to heat, then several strong men arrived to load the roasters and a lot of supplies to take to the park. Once at the park there was a flurry of activity to get ready to serve at 11:00. The servers were ready with smiles and friendly greetings to those who came to eat. When it came time to close up shop, another team arrived to help pack everything up and bring it back to the church. Wow! It really went well thanks to the cooperation of many. The Community Club expressed their appreciation to us for providing this meal.

The profits from the lunch will be used for youth activities, such as Bible camp, national youth convention in Minneapolis next year and other events. We know the youth are the future of the church!

## NWSWI Mission Developer Lidixe Montoya...needs your HELP!

Lidixe is a former physician from El Salvador. She moved to the Eau Claire area 7 years ago. She graduated from Luther Seminary and has done great work with the Hispanic community around Eau Claire. Her student Visa was done on June 1. She has applied for a Visa for Religious Workers which has been delayed because of a nationwide backlog in Visa processing due to the pandemic. This is creating new and unforeseen costs. She is not allowed to work while waiting for the Visa. Lidixe has a passion for service and justice and has done amazing ministry in our synod. Lidixe is also a single mom of two young boys. Let's help support her during this time. Thank you for your generosity.



Thanks for your  
generosity.

## 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.

## Open House at Matt & Sue Saarem on Saturday, September 25

You are invited to an open house on Saturday, September 25 at Matt & Sue Saarem's - 1315B 120th Ave, Amery - 2 pm until dark. We're located just a mile south of highway 8 and around the ess curves from the Ox Lake Bible Camp as well as the first house behind the round barn! Join us for a fun, casual double celebration for our 25th anniversary as well as Sue's 80th birthday. We'll have snacks and lots of lawn games. PLEASE no gifts - your presence will be gift enough.

### Our Financial Report

#### July

Offerings from congregation:  
\$6,267.00

Transfer from Savings to  
Checking: \$3,000.00

July Expenses: \$7,610.07

—Al Arndt, Treasurer

### Special Guest Preacher September 12, 2021

DEACON DAVID RASK BEHLING  
Hunger and Justice Advocate

- Provide congregations with ELCA World Hunger and Justice Resources
- Lead workshops about hunger and justice issues
- Work with congregations and conferences to design custom educational resources for local hunger and justice advocacy

## From the Parish Nurse—Racism is a Public Health Crisis in Wisconsin

### Background

Years of work led by grassroots groups, community-based organizations, government agencies, academic leaders, and many others have laid a strong foundation to address racial inequities in Wisconsin. In October 2017, the Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) Group, of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, convened statewide partners at the inaugural Healthiest State Agenda Setting Meeting. The convening supported the collective identification of six statewide health equity priorities, one of which was to declare racism a public health emergency. In May 2018, the [Wisconsin Public Health Association \(WPHA\) passed a resolution](#) declaring that racism is a public health crisis in Wisconsin and committed to taking action. Building on this work, several partner organizations have worked together to transfer the WPHA resolution content to this Racism is a Public Health Crisis Sign-on. The goal is for organizations and individuals to [sign-on to the declaration](#) and commit to actions that are tailored to their specific contexts.

Visit the [Racism is a Public Health Crisis in Wisconsin page](#) for more information about this effort, to view the [current list of organizational signers](#), and to [sign-on](#).

### Declaration

*(See the [WPHA Resolution](#) for full declaration and citations.)*

We agree that Racism is a Public Health Crisis and commit to take urgent action because:

- Race is a social construction with no biological basis.
- Racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism is internalized or interpersonal and systemic racism is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks, that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources.
- Racism causes persistent racial discrimination in housing, education, employment and criminal justice, and an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism is a social determinant of health.
- More than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes.
- In Wisconsin, the highest excess death rates exist for African Americans and Native Americans at every stage in the life course and our infant mortality rate for infants of non-Hispanic black women is the highest in the nation.
- The American Public Health Association (APHA) launched a National Campaign Against Racism.
- Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 states that, "Wisconsin must address persistent disparities in health outcomes and the social, economic, educational and environmental inequities that contribute to them."
- Public health's responsibilities to address racism include reshaping our discourse and agenda so that we all actively engage in racial justice work.
- While there is no epidemiological definition of "crisis," the health impact of racism clearly rises to the definition proposed by Galea: "The problem must affect large numbers of people, it must threaten health over the long-term, and it must require the adoption of large scale solutions."

For more information go to:  
<https://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/>

## JUSTICE AND JOY – Resolutions from the Synod Assembly

Last month in our Resolutions update, we discussed Anti-Racism.

Some people might say that this is not a church issue... but Christ would say it is. Christ loves all his children equally and it hurts not to see everyone treated equally. It is a justice issue that God feels is troubling for all of us. Mostly because we don't see it, don't understand that we are doing anything wrong!

I guess that is why we need to talk about it. We can't change behaviors unless we name them and talk about them...it is in-grained in our memory banks and hard to change. Think about how hard it is to say Administrative Assistant instead of Secretary. Comes out wrong half the time. Same with our discussions about race.

Each congregation is setting aside a time each year to reflect on how racism, implicit bias, and privilege impact their own life together.

In order to get a few conversations started, we thought posing one question to discuss each Sunday during our coffee time might help us to understand.

Five Minutes only. Not taking all your visiting time. Simple questions that have no wrong answers but make us aware of what we think.

Week 1: What characteristics do we attribute to various races? Do you think all in the race are the same?

Week 2: Were conversations about race a part of your upbringing and how was the subject approached?

Week 3: Do we desire people of color to "act White"?

Week 4: How does our defensiveness keep us from truly listening to people of color?

There are rules to discussion. Only state your own thoughts, listen to others, do not interrupt, do not bring political points to conversation; this is a time to reflect on race.

We are only becoming aware of what we think and how that might affect race equality.

Finish in Prayer for continued openness and understanding.

Can we start this on Sept 22 and do it for 4 weeks and see how it goes?

### Saying Hello

Greetings North Valley!

I am Laurene Edge, and I am replacing Mary in the office. I live just outside of Luck with my husband Dan and our 2 cats, Millie and Sophie. My main hobby is making jewelry.

I also work at Bone Lake Lutheran Church, so I will be splitting my time, much like Mary. I will be in the office on Tuesdays, and I will be working remotely the rest of the time.

I look forward to getting to know all of you.

**Let's Celebrate . . .**

**Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 09/06 Chuck Kruse
- 09/12 Marisa Gehl
- 09/13 Jeff Kruse
- 09/16 Axel Melin
- 09/19 Beth Egge
- 09/22 Michael Woltz
- 09/25 Bryan Cox
- 09/28 Klara Woltz
- 09/28 Kora Woltz

**Birthdays**

- 09/04 Tom Mabry
- 09/05 Lyle Hopkins
- 09/05 Jackie Morales
- 09/05 Heidi Simmerman
- 09/07 Caleb Hacker
- 09/09 Charlie Mayo
- 09/11 Donna Berg
- 09/11 Landon Gallatin
- 09/14 Ashleigh Simmerman
- 09/14 Anistyn Cox
- 09/16 Rick Pederson
- 09/16 Alecia Ouellette
- 09/20 Kaylynn Buss
- 09/22 Sephonia Cowans
- 09/23 Mitch Sandberg
- 09/27 Sue Saarem
- 09/28 Chyleen Johnson
- 09/29 Anna Morales
- 09/30 Teresa Studie
- 09/30 Austin Erickson

**Wedding Anniversaries**

- 09/02/1978 Mike & Cindy Mabry
- 09/03/1976 Dave & Bette Tooley
- 09/03/2016 Mitchell & Amber Stage
- 09/14/2019 Mitch & Brittany Sandberg
- 09/16/1995 Tim & Vickie Erickson
- 09/21/2019 Randy & Krystal Juleen
- 09/22/2007 Sean & Angie McIntyre
- 09/24/1988 Jeff & Karyn Kruse
- 09/27/2014 Andy & Jess Kruse



**Prayer Chain**



- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 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.

We want to open a chain email, of course all information is very private. If you would be interested in praying for people, contact Donna Berg fairviewacres33@lakeland.ws.

**We have been praying for ...**

Leif Bever, Cameron Collins, Sephonia Cowans, 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)

**Continued Healing:** Scott Divine, Bev Hopkins, Anita Johnson, Carleen Matosky, Marilyn Nehrung

**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

# September 2021

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																								
			1 9am Worship Committee Mtg	2	3	4																																																								
5 9:30am Outdoor Worship with Communion 5-minute Chair Massage after worship	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																								
<b>Pastor D. on Vacation from Sept 7-14</b> <b>Pastor Greg from Luck Lutheran is able to cover for me in case of emergencies at 715-419-0010.</b>																																																														
12 9:30am Worship—Special Speaker Blood Pressure Checks after Worship	13	14	15 9am Worship Committee Mtg	16	17	18																																																								
19 9:30am Worship with Communion <b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	20 5:45pm Transition Team Mtg	21 6:30pm Council	22	23	24	25 <i>Deliver bags to young families</i> 2pm Open House at Saarem's																																																								
26 9:30am Worship	27	28	29 9am Worship Committee Mtg	30	1	2																																																								
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«AddressBlock»

### 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](mailto:pastor@nvlch.org)

Church Email: [office@nvlch.org](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Amdt
Other Council Members	Charlie Christensen Bev Hopkins Jeff Kruse Tom Tellijohn
W/ELCA Reps.	Myma Anderson Donna Berg Suzanne Grill Jan Kruse
Youth Rep.	