

**MIDVALE COMMUNITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Celebrating Seventy: Gathering in Growth and Grace  
1953 - 2023



## FROM FERTILE GROUND

All land has history. Midvale Community Lutheran Church is built on land with a pastoral history. The Madison four lakes area is in the glaciated part of Southern Wisconsin. Glaciers carved and shaped the area, spreading over the land destined to be Midvale Heights and continuing in a southwesterly direction for only another six miles before the glacier stopped. When the glacier melted, what was left behind were lakes and highly fertile soil, ready to welcome and sustain inhabitants. The Effigy Mound people are so named for the earth mounds created to represent three powerful spirit groups: water, earth, and sky. Over a thousand effigy mounds are concentrated in the Madison area, a spiritual connection and sacred ground for indigenous communities.

Due to native peoples living in the area for thousands of years, the church property is on an “oak opening” part of thinly timbered land that was annually burned to provide a more favorable hunting area for deer and small game. There were no villages, mounds or other evidence of native peoples living on the exact spot of Midvale Community Lutheran Church, but native peoples no doubt hunted in the larger area. This was a place that sustained its residents.

The first record of land ownership shows that the Benjamin Piper family purchased three hundred and twenty acres in the south half of the Township of Madison in 1853. The Piper family have roots back to 1653 when Nathaniel Piper immigrated to Ipswich, Massachusetts from Dartmouth, England. Later generations moved to the Wisconsin Territory. Benjamin Piper participated in the state’s constitutional convention prior to statehood in 1848. Generations of the Piper family farmed the land as pasture and for crops with gradual suburban development over a century until 1953 when eight lots between Tokay Boulevard and Wakefield Street were purchased by the American Lutheran Church.

One account mentioned sheep grazing in the area before it was developed, perhaps providing a historical tie-in with the stained-glass sheep in the church windows. Flocks continue to find support on this land, then and now. What an appropriate setting for a church community to thrive.

Sources:

Martinelli, T. (2023). Interview with Westmorland historian, January 13, 2023.

Mollenhoff, D. V. (2003). *Madison, A History of the Formative Years*, 2nd ed., Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Punwar, A., (Ed.). (2004). *Forests, Farms, and Families: A History of the Midvale Heights Neighborhood* Madison, WI: Midvale Heights Community Association.

## ON THIS FOUNDATION

The story of Midvale Community Lutheran Church describes the people and events shaping who we are and what we are. The foundation of growth and grace has been nurtured each decade of the congregation's existence. Here are highlights of the building blocks that have created a thriving faith community decade by decade (and some interesting facts you may not have known!):



### **FIRST DECADE:**

#### **1953**

First service held in parsonage - 525 Woodside Terrace

MCLC formally organized - at St. John's Lutheran Church, Downtown

Motion made and accepted to keep the original name: Midvale Community Lutheran Church

First congregational meeting held

First mid-week Lenten service held

First Sunday School session conducted

Cornerstone laid for chapel and parsonage



#### **1954**

Dedication of chapel

Dedication of parsonage (4330 Wakefield Street)

Congregation became self-supporting

#### **1955**

Three worship services regularly held, rather than two

#### **1956**

Sunrise service at Big Sky Outdoor Theatre

#### **1958**

Worship building dedicated

Cornerstone laid - for worship building and offices in southwest area



#### **1959**

Church library established - \$15 to start

## SECOND DECADE:

**1964**

"Open Door" policy set at Midvale to let members and community know they are welcome at all times to use our church for private worship

**1966**

Cornerstone laid for administration/education wing, following removal of chapel and building.

**1968**

Ceramic mosaic mural by Tokay entrance assembled by members of congregation, including children

**1971**

Fire damaged worship center  
Worship held at Holy Name Seminary and in the Fellowship Hall

**1972**

Easter - services returned to MCLC sanctuary

## THIRD DECADE:

**1976**

Use of common cup for communion to be reserved for small group communion outside of regularly scheduled worship services

**1977**

Sub-zero donated under-the-counter freezer for kitchen

## FOURTH DECADE:

**1983**

Ceiling fans installed in sanctuary



**1984**

Start-up of Long-Range Planning Committee

**1985**

Gift of six-foot grand piano for sanctuary  
Computer system purchased

**1986**

Membership records computerized  
Altar area renovated

**1987**

Mortgage burning at annual meeting

**1989**

Church designated as a smoke-free building

**FIFTH DECADE:****1994**

Cornerstone for addition - Gathering Space, elevator (to make all levels of the building accessible), two rooms on second floor with air conditioning  
Parsonage razed and parking lot constructed  
Acquired Wakefield Street house (adjacent to church parking lot). House used initially by Lutheran Social Services and then in partnership with other agencies to provide housing for those in need.

**1995**

Youth Room - new carpet and coat of paint

**1996**

Addition of Saturday night worship to make four worship times each weekend

**1997**

Nursery and Sunday School classrooms - new carpeting, cabinets, ceiling tiles, paint

## SIXTH DECADE:

### 2005

Wakefield house remodeled  
Gathering Space - new carpeting  
Stained glass window in Gathering Space (above parking lot entrance) given as gift to honor all quilters (past, present, future)



### 2006

New hymnals dedicated (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

### 2007

"Journey of Renewal" building committee formed  
Youth room refurbished

### 2008

"Journey of Renewal" capital campaign began



### 2009

Groundbreaking for new worship space (9/30)  
Services moved to Fellowship Hall



### 2010

Cornerstone – on addition to Midvale Blvd. side of the Sanctuary, removal of balcony, relocation of sacristy to old Midvale entrance  
Good Friday - new outdoor cross installed  
Easter worship in remodeled Sanctuary



### 2012

Expansion of parking lot denied by City of Madison

## SEVENTH DECADE:

### 2014

Parking lot - resurfaced and lighting updated  
Fellowship Hall - old and damaged rectangle and round tables replaced  
Kitchen - old refrigerator replaced  
Library - two-year makeover completed

### 2016

Basement shower installed for the Interfaith Hospitality Network temporary homeless shelter housing

### 2017

(500th Anniversary of Reformation)  
Reformation Heritage Garden developed  
Congregational tour to Germany



### 2018

Hearing Loop installed in worship space  
Record-breaking rains flooded areas within Fellowship Hall and lower-level Education wing  
Commencement of replacing all light fixtures to energy efficient LEDs

### 2019

Education wing - windows replaced  
Pollinator Garden - installed by Diligent Doers 4-H group  
Gathering Space Kitchenette - dishwasher installed  
Refurbished and updated organ project completed

### 2020

Pipe Organ Renewal Celebration Concert  
Year of challenges - Covid 19 Pandemic  
Worship live-streamed  
Meetings held by Zoom

### 2021

Summer services live-streamed, in the church parking lot, or at Westmorland Park  
Water Remediation (Education wing waterproofed)

### 2022

Guns to Garden Tools and gun surrender event  
Christmas Eve - burst water pipe by sanctuary during 3:00 worship (only 4:30 service cancelled, worship resumes at 6:00 and 7:30pm)  
Solar panels installed - south side/education wing





## PASTORS SERVING MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sig G. Sandrock, senior pastor.....	(May 1953 – September 10, 1961)
Carl Mau, interim pastor.....	(September 1961 – January 1962)
Stanley S. Klyve, senior pastor.....	(January 28, 1962 – June 1989)
Chose to become associate pastor.....	(July 1989 – May 31, 1992)
Robert E. McClelland, associate pastor.....	(August 26, 1962 – September 1965)
Robert E. Esse, associate pastor.....	(April 24, 1966 – Fall 1970)
S. M. Moe, part-time minister to elderly.....	(January 1, 1971 – November 1981)
David M. Holm, associate pastor.....	(July 4, 1971 – December 1973)
Thomas C. Smrcka, associate pastor, half-time.....	(August 5, 1973 – April 1975)
Norwood R. Knutson, associate pastor.....	(August 4, 1974 – August 16, 1979)
Kennith Smith, associate pastor.....	(July 20, 1980 – February 28, 1988)
James S. Koza, interim pastor.....	(August 1988 – December 1988)
Dennis N. Tollefson, senior pastor.....	(June 18, 1989 – June 30, 1999)
D. Foy Christopherson, associate pastor.....	(July 16, 1990 – September 19, 1993)
Cynthia L. Wolf, associate pastor.....	(April 16, 1993 – April 30, 2000)
Robert C. Kirchman, associate pastor.....	(June 14, 1994 – February 15, 1999)
Joel Diemer, interim pastor.....	(July 1999 – December 2000)
Bruce D. Loewenhagen, senior pastor.....	(February 2001 – June 30, 2013)
Blake Rohrer, associate pastor.....	(February 2002 – May 18, 2008)
Katie Baardseth, associate pastor.....	(September 14, 2008 – June 30, 2013)
senior pastor.....	(June 30, 2013 – February 2, 2014)
Larry Pinnow, interim associate pastor.....	(September 1, 2013 – January 2014)
visitation pastor.....	(March 2014 – January 10, 2018)
Katie Baardseth and Blake Rohrer, co-pastors.....	(February 2, 2014 to Present)
Kennith Smith, visitation pastor.....	(February 20, 2018 to Present)

## MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION ORDAINED TO SERVE IN THE ELCA (and its predecessor denominations)

### *Word and Sacrament ministry:*

Charles Aase (ordained: June 21, 1964)  
Carl Richard Becker (ordained: December 20, 1964)  
Craig Steven Richter (ordained: September 1976)  
Jean Kloss (ordained March 1, 1987)  
Mark Peters (ordained: July 2, 1992)  
Kenneth Langsdorf (ordained: August 2, 1992)  
John Streccius (ordained: June 26, 1994)  
Aimee Quirin Wollman (ordained: July 10, 1994)  
Jeanne Warner (ordained: October 2, 1994)  
Patrick Siegler (ordained: August 23, 1998)  
Brian Norsman (ordained: July 9, 2000)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## **MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION ORDAINED TO SERVE IN THE ELCA (and its predecessor denominations)**

### *Word and Service ministry*

Sarah Kretschman (ordained: August 16, 2020)

### *Seminarians*

Steven Schultz (graduated from Pacific Lutheran Seminary, 1978)

Kelsey Johnson (attending Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago)

Elise Uphoff (attending Luther Seminary)

Vica Steele (attending Wartburg Theological Seminary)

### *ELCA South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Diakonia graduates*

Cheryl Krull (June 3, 2017)

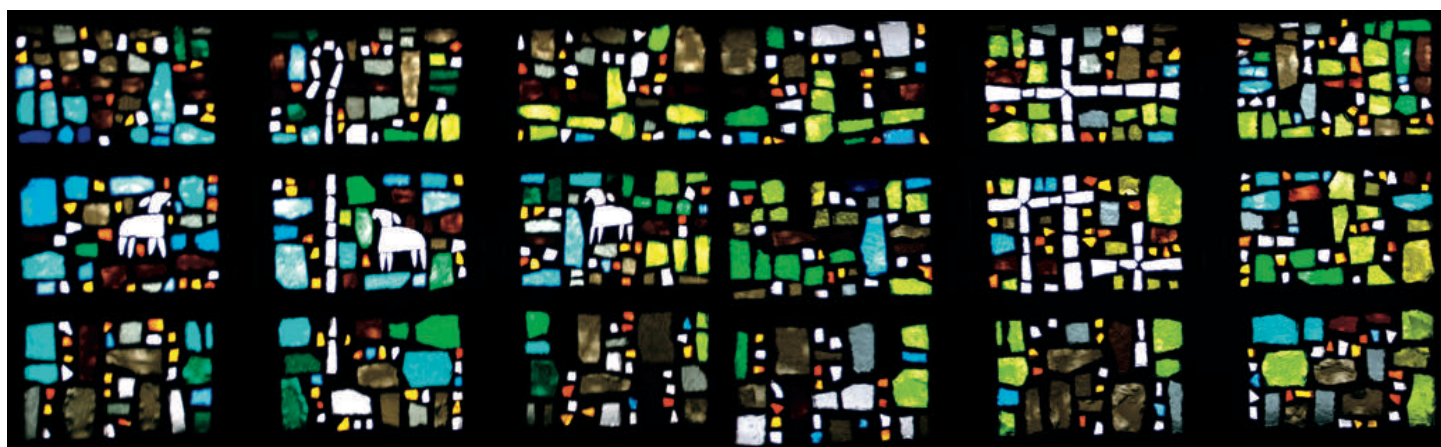
## **CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS**

1953 LaVerne Geisler	1977 Rhoda Braunschweig	2001 Alan White
1953 Ralph Callies	1978 Doyle Beyl	2002 Alan White
1955 Russell Herreid	1979 Trudy Bangsberg	2003 Mark Bangsberg
1956 Ralph Jacobson	1980 Gerald Born	2004 Mark Thompson
1957 Roy Lindberg	1981 Gerald Born	2005 Mark Thompson
1958 Earl Stolper	1982 Carolyn Rowe	2006 Don Klimpel
1959 Herbert Woinowsky	1983 E. Day Werts	2007 Brad Chapiewsky
1960 Irvin Richter	1984 Edward Ornes	2008 Ralph Mork
1961 Norman Braton	1985 Esther Anderson	2009 Kent Lawson
1962 Arthur Mennes	1986 William Braham	2010 Brad Chapiewsky
1963 Maurice White	1987 Lori Kay	2011 Ron Fischer
1964 James Underkofler	1988 Thomas Evans	2012 Carolyn Cain
1965 Reuben Lorenz	1989 Thomas Evans	2013 Ron Fischer
1966 Leland Aase	1990 Jill Siegler	2014 Jimmy Christenson
1967 Robert Shand	1991 Rhea Myers	2015 Jack Henderson
1968 Leonard Erickson	1992 Rhea Myers	2016 Roger Larson
1969 Alton Johnson	1993 William Brunkow	2017 Laurie Stensland
1970 Jerald Apps	1994 William Brunkow	2018 Mark Swandby
1971 Otto Festge	1995 Robert Ellingson	2019 Greg Lampe
1972 Lee Swan	1996 Robert Ellingson	2020 Frank Erdman
1973 Robert Torkelson	1997 Randall Schultz	2021 Jocelyn Riley
1974 Grace White	1998 Randall Schultz	2022 Greg Lampe
1975 Alvin Randall	1999 Linda Zimdars	2023 Julie Walsh
1976 Lloyd Bostian	2000 Alan White	

## CONFIRMED CHARTER MEMBERS OF MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Alger  
Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Apple  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Barnes  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Blanch  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bleck and Bette  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley O. Bokelmann  
Mr. Larry Breikrentz  
Mr. and Mrs. Willard J. Brockmann  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Callies  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Carnock  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley C. Cross  
Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Curran  
Mrs. Nick Deanovich  
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Edwards  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Ewing  
Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Geisler  
Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Gundlach  
Mrs. Harvey Hastings  
Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Henderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Herreid  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Hougum  
Mr. and Mrs. S. Huseby  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jacobson  
Mr. and Mrs. Clint Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Kuhns  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Landphier  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Larsen  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Lindberg  
Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin R. Matoushek  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. McBurney  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Mickow  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Narowetz  
Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson  
Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Niedermeier  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Nuttall  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Olson  
Mrs. Arthur Rizzi  
Rev. and Mrs. Sig G. Sandrock  
Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Sippy  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Skiles  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Tallard  
Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Voigt  
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. White  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Wylde  
Oliver Zick



## GROWTH IN SPIRIT

Midvale has grown by welcoming all. From its beginnings, and starting from scratch, Midvale has grown through the spirit of evangelism, literally going door-to-door and reaching out to everyone in the community and beyond. The growth in the spirit led the congregation to organize in May 1953, within three months of starting to hold worship, and become a self-supporting congregation in December 1954, a quick 19 months later. Through literally hundreds of cold calls door-to-door throughout the nearby neighborhoods by founding Pastor Sig Sandrock, the spirit of evangelism led to the congregation growing along with the community, building a second, larger church structure in 1958, only five years after construction of the first building.



Midvale's growth in spirit is anchored in numerous opportunities for members to serve and grow in grace. "A Growing Church for Growing Christians" is the title on the cover of the service of dedication for the second church building. Inside is a description of "The Midvale Spirit" summarized by our name:

**Midvale** – In the heart of Madison's beautiful, friendly, expansive western heights subdivision.

**Community** – Welding homes and boulevards into a Christian atmosphere. Serving parishioners ... Offering a center for community fellowship.

**Lutheran** – Affiliated through the American Lutheran Church [now Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]. Representing the great common denominator of Protestantism. Traditional in creed, liberal in outlook.

**Church** – Holding high the Cross of Christ ... Matching evangelical worship with warm Christian fellowship.



All means all. Midvale has been a beacon supporting those with mental illness. Since the 1990s, Midvale recognizes **Mental Illness Awareness Week** each October with a special litany and candle lighting. In their devotional messages written for Lent 2023, several members identified the strong sense of belonging and support from Midvale pastors and members. The church was also instrumental in launching the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), which started when Midvale member Nancy Abraham organized a local group which held its programs and business meetings at the church. Discussions at MCLC led to the first national gathering of advocates (held in Madison), where 280 representatives from across the country organized NAMI.

Each week in the worship bulletin, this message appears to affirm MCLC as a **Reconciling in Christ Congregation**:

“Midvale Community Lutheran Church welcomes all because Jesus welcomes all. With you here, we are closer to who God is calling us to be. If you’ve felt excluded or harmed in any way, you are welcome here. Your gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation are welcome here. Your family, children, friends, and partner are welcome here. Your abilities, culture, socioeconomic circumstances, race, and religious background are welcome here. Here you will find an affirming community committed to racial equity and welcoming of all. We strive for all people to experience God’s abundance. In Christ, you are loved. Welcome!”

Midvale’s Pride Team works to equip members to proclaim God’s love and put this message into practice, believing that, truly, all are welcome.

Midvale members have weekly opportunities to grow in spirit through the wide variety of ministries. This list is only representative of the multiple ways members can live their faith:

- Worship Ministries, serving as greeters, homebound communion ministers, acolytes, lectors, Chancel Guild and communion assistants, ushers, and through the arts and worship environment teams;
- Music Ministries, enhancing worship through choirs, handbells, brass ensemble, and a new praise band;
- Youth Ministries, including Sunday School, the confirmation program and mentors, Vacation Bible School, and youth service and mission activities;
- Adult Education, providing opportunities to learn and grow via the Sunday morning Adult Education Forum (continuous since 1968), seasonal Bible studies, library, and summer Adult Bible School;
- Caring for the creation, through Building and Grounds committee maintaining the property and facility with clean-up days and an Energy Task Force, Adopt-a-Highway clean up on the Beltline, and Care for Creation Team;
- Fellowship Ministries, including Sunday hospitality time, Lenten meals, Women’s Circles, Men’s Group, Meditation Group, Reader’s Group, and Gardening Group;
- Caring Ministries, Care Team, Healing Meals Ministry & Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Prayer Chain.



## SHARING THROUGH SERVICE

Midvale Community Lutheran Church has been filled with Christ-like servants moved by the breath of the Holy Spirit through all of its history. This 70th anniversary booklet could be filled in its entirety with examples of Midvale members taking their Spirit call to service into our neighborhoods, our city, and around the world. Inspired by the Word to share our gifts with our neighbors and led by our Pastors with the “how to do it” lessons in their sermons, we have incorporated service into our work, our free time, and our donations. We have been blessed richly in doing so! Midvalers answer the call to service in a multitude of ways. These examples illustrate how our members incorporate servanthood into their very existence.

2023 is the 56th anniversary of the **Madison Area Jail Ministry**. In 1967, Madison Mayor and Midvale member Otto Festge convinced the Madison Area Lutheran Council to organize and begin a ministry to men and women in the Dane County Jail. The ministry began with a part-time Lutheran pastor and as needs were recognized, the Ministry garnered support of over 20 area churches to support a full-time ministry. The chaplain and volunteers provide worship opportunities, counseling, family support and referrals. Otto Festge continued his and Midvale’s support for this truly unique ministry, which our congregation still supports today.



**Lutheran World Relief** (LWR) has been soliciting quilters to create quilts for people in need all around the world since 1945. Midvale quilters have long been a part of those efforts. The Midvale quilters have created well over 6500 of the LWR quilts which are sent all over the world. In addition, they create baby quilts for newly baptized Midvale members, quilts for our graduating high school seniors to take with them to college, and many other items that are sold to pay for the shipping costs of the LWR quilts. They sew backpacks for children in need and stock them with school supplies. They provide personal care, sewing and baby care kits for people all over the world. These quilters truly use their amazing talents in service to others. The Holy Spirit lives in every stitch.

Nan Wild is a retired Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner. When she retired, Nan knew she needed to use her nursing skills to help the needy. Nan took a training course in Street Medicine, a discipline that takes health care to the homeless population. Nan volunteers with **Madison Area Care for the Homeless**, working with a team providing direct care to Madison’s homeless in parks, under bridges, and at encampments, as well as in overnight homeless shelters. Nan joins her healthcare colleagues on evening walks seeking to help those with medical needs. Who enters their retirement seeking to walk among the neediest in our community at night, looking for ways to serve? Midvale members led by the Holy Spirit!

In 1999, the **Interfaith Hospitality Network**, now known as **The Road Home**, started a branch here in Madison. This group began on the East Coast, engaging faith communities in efforts to provide temporary housing to homeless families. Midvale was one of the founding congregations in the Madison area. Led by Greg Lampe and Gayle Perlberg, Midvale created a leadership team of coordinators who recruited volunteers to welcome and house 4-5 homeless families here at Midvale for a week at a time, four times each year. Midvale provided each family with a room, evening meals and breakfasts, activities for the children, and overnight hosts to stay at church with the families. During the day, the children went to school and the parents went to the Road Home office to learn parenting skills, resumé building, search for jobs, and gain employment. Each host week 80 volunteers signed up to cook and serve meals, set up and pack up the family rooms, and just be there to help with whatever the families needed. We hosted each of our weeks with the help of “buddy” churches St. James Lutheran in Verona, Glenwood Moravian, and Prairie Unitarian. Midvale members of all ages faithfully served in this ministry for 19 years, until the Road Home discontinued the church-based shelter program in 2018. The Road Home also sponsored the Building Futures program, and once again our congregation stepped up, housing homeless families for 2-year periods in Midvale’s house on Wakefield Street. Midvalers cleaned and maintained the property, donated furniture, and raised approximately \$16,000 every two years to support each family. The response to sponsor this ministry was nothing short of a miracle.

Our congregation has served the underserved throughout its 70 years. Sadly, our neighbors in need were often victims of racism. The homeless population in Madison is a case in point. For many years before the pandemic, Midvalers served at the **Porchlight Men’s Shelter** housed at Grace Episcopal Church on the Capital Square on the first Saturday of each month and again early the next morning. The many Midvale volunteers can tell you that people of color were a large percentage of the guests who gratefully received a hot meal or breakfast, way out of proportion to the percentage of people of color in our community. Hunger also plagues the same racial group disproportionately. Midvalers have long supported the **St. Mark’s Lutheran Food Pantry** through many years of donations of shelf-stable food. Midvale youth also lead work teams to sort food at Second Harvest Food Bank.

More recently, during the Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020, church members were led by the Spirit to form a **Racial Justice Group**, headed by Mark Banghart. The team began leading the congregation in several racial justice issues. Several Racial Justice Group members took a course, “The Evolution of Systemic Racism,” offered by Leanne Puglielli and the Honorable Reverend Everett Mitchell, Dane County Circuit Court Judge and pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. When Judge Mitchell stopped teaching the class, Midvale’s Ben Kempinen took his place. Members of the Racial Justice Group also introduced the congregation to several opportunities to serve in the Madison community, including further educational topics such as redlining in our community, housing discrimination, and voting rights work canvassing in underserved neighborhoods, and helping with voter registration activities. Midvale began supporting Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans. This historically black church has a Community Table program

providing meals in the heart of New Orleans which we have supported through Midvale Endowment grants. Midvalers are moved to serve our neighbors through this work.

Welcoming and supporting people seeking refuge from war-torn countries has been a trademark of Midvale throughout its history, starting with persons displaced after World War II, decades later helping Vietnamese and Hmong families, and continuing today. In 2019, Midvale sponsored a round-table presentation describing the recent deportation of a Lutheran pastor and her husband living and serving in Racine back to Colombia, their country of origin. The shocking circumstances that led to their deportation inspired many Midvale members to form our **Immigration Action Team**, dedicated to countering policies and attitudes rooted in racism and fear of the “other.” The team led the congregation to become a supporting congregation in the **Dane Sanctuary Coalition**, a group of 20 faith communities dedicated to following their faith-based values to welcome the stranger.



The Holy Spirit was truly at work when Ben Kempinen reached out to Toni Swandby about ideas for housing for a young asylum seeker from Cameroon. Mark and Toni Swandby agreed to house this young man in their home and the rest of the congregation jumped right in, supporting Ngwa Augustine with warm clothes, friendship, monetary support, and encouragement. Ngwa is now a Midvale member and goes right on inspiring us. Our direct experience in welcoming Ngwa led the Immigration Action Team to propose an **Asylum Seeker Sponsorship Plan**, a detailed plan to support an immigrant or family for a two-year period as they gain their own housing, employment, and integrate into our community. Ukrainian Snizhana Bykova and her two children were our first recipients, and through this courageous young woman we learned firsthand about the horrors of the war in Ukraine. It has been breathtaking to see the outpouring of support from the congregation for this family torn apart by war.



Both Ngwa and Snizhana are victims of family separation. Ngwa fled persecution and torture in Cameroon, leaving his wife and daughter behind in 2018. Through the support and prayers of Midvale, he is now preparing to welcome them to their new home in America. Snizhana brought her husband’s parents to live with her, but her beloved husband is still in Ukraine, as men are required to stay and support Ukraine’s war effort. Midvalers hope and pray that this family will also be reunited in the not-so-distant future. The Immigration Action Team also prays that our congregation’s work welcoming immigrants will continue on as a permanent part of Midvale’s servant ministry.

How does the Holy Spirit lead us to serve? May the past 70 years of service inspire you to follow your own unique path of service.



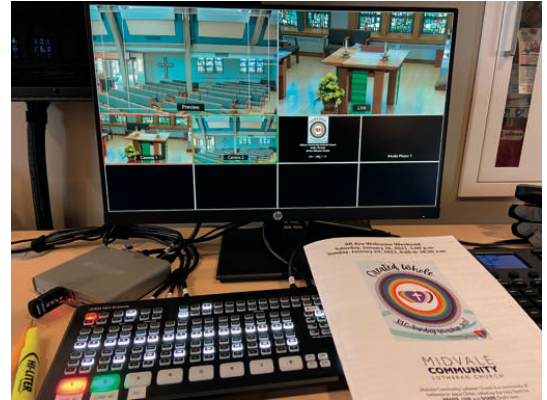
## CONTINUING OUR COMMUNITY

### Leadership

The pastors, leaders, and staff of MCLC and their care for the safety of our members and community were the foundation of our movement through and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. It allowed us to continue as much ministry as was possible with the energy, passion, tools, and faith that was available. We all remember times feeling drained of each of these resources in our own lives as we struggled with unknowns and fracturing in our broader community.

Three years after the governor's office issued its first "stay-at-home" order, we continue the ministry of MCLC. The pandemic helped us focus on what matters. We know the church is not the building. We are the church wherever we are. Keeping connected to God and to one another is not only possible in difficult times, but vital for our lives and well-being.

Some of these ministries reach 70 years into the past. Other ministries are rooted in new awareness of social needs. New methods or mediums to our ministry were developed as we remained open to opportunities, many of which will influence how our congregation will do ministry into the future.



### Worship Ministry

We not only continue to worship at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, we continue to share the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel into people's homes through our live stream online worship. Tools and technology allow differently abled members of our body to connect with the ritual and familiarity of our services.

Three years later and the number of faces smiling across the sanctuary at each other begins to grow again. Our youth are acolyting again, lighting candles and assisting with Holy Communion. Couples are exchanging vows of love and commitment in front of their cloud of witnesses. Babies are being lifted up and embraced around the waters of the Baptismal font. And holding each other through the whole cycle of life we continue to mourn together through celebrations of life and death.





## **.Music Ministry**

A huge part of worship is the music. The piano continues to guide our song through hymns, as does the pipe organ which recently saw a renewal with bringing pipes forward and visible and adding digital features to enhance the ways it can fill the space with its magnificent sound.



The pandemic had the greatest impact on singing, the loss of which was felt by many. Congregational singing has returned and the adult choir is rebuilding after a gap of over two years. But Midvale Community Lutheran Church has always worshiped to many styles of music and so we continue to fill the sanctuary with the sound of praise through soloists singing and playing brass or strings, other instruments, and recently a contemporary worship band.

## **Children, Youth, & Family**

Our elementary school families have been steadily returning to participate in Sunday School programming with in-person attendance growing. Many are volunteering as shepherds and teachers to provide for the continuing sharing of our faith and the good news of God's love to the next generation.



We held our first Christmas program back in the Worship center in 2022. The kids seemed to have sprouted in that many who had worn sheep's costumes at the last in-person Christmas program were helping write the script this year. The 4th-6th graders in our Red group have participated in writing parts of the program over the last couple of years. We can't wait to see what they come up with next.



**Vacation Bible School** was one of the ministries that continued through the pandemic despite limitations of space or weather. This could not have happened without the members of Midvale stepping up to do things outside their comfort zone, creating virtual activities, recording storytelling videos, and more. This past year we held music in the worship center with the worship band and hosted activities in the parking lot. Midvale continues to use the strengths of our facilities and members to host the best weeklong event possible.

## Generosity

Midvale's members continue to give generously in faith. Financial giving is our joyful response to all God has done. It is a way we grow in faith and connect ourselves in a meaningful and tangible way with God's mission in the world. Midvale is exceptional among congregations in that the church remains vital with solid financial support for our ministry and mission. As a church we see the difference our offerings, our time and our gifts make for the good of the world God loves so much.

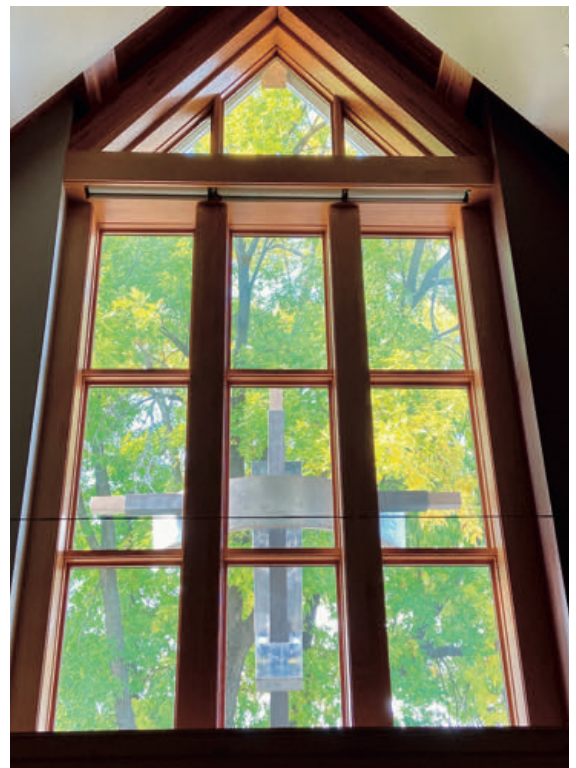
## Looking to the future

A Ministry Wing Renovation is being planned to create hospitality and comfort spaces where all feel welcome, to maximize building space for existing and new ministries and community groups, to add sustainability initiatives to help us be better stewards for God's creation, and to take care of maintenance needs in the section of the building constructed in 1966.



## To praise, live and share God's love

Midvale Community Lutheran Church is an active congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Rooted in our Madison neighborhood for 70 years we strive to follow God's call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in both words and deeds. Growing deeper spiritually here at Midvale Community Lutheran Church means that we are both gathered and sent. We gather around God's Word and Sacrament at worship, and then we are sent to love and serve God's world the rest of our days. Serving the community is a value that you can see right in Midvale Community Lutheran Church's middle name. Growing in God's grace and love, answering God's call to make disciples, and living in the promise of God's forgiveness each day are what you will experience here. So, seventy years after we began, we continue to invite: Come and join us!



Credits:

*Thank you to all who contributed to create this commemorative booklet to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Midvale Community Lutheran Church, including Nancy Abraham, Eric Herkert-Oakland, Margaret Hoffman, Justina Lange, Irma Quirin, Nancy McMahon, Paul Sandrock, and Toni Swandby. Thank you to Carol Leaver for creating the cover art. The design and printing of this commemorative booklet is made possible by a grant from Midvale's Endowment Fund.*

# 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**APRIL 30, 2023**

**CELEBRATING SEVENTY: GATHERING IN GROWTH AND GRACE!**

Midvale Community Lutheran Church has been making a difference in our community and across the world for 70 years in 2023!

Midvale's official chartering as a congregation was May 3, 1953. As we mark this milestone, we give thanks for all that God has done in and through us for the good of the world.



## **Events on April 30:**

8:00am festival anniversary worship in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

9:15am extended hospitality time and reception in the Gathering Space

10:30am festival anniversary worship in the Sanctuary

11:45am catered anniversary banquet in the Fellowship Hall

12:30pm anniversary program in the Sanctuary

Festival worship at both 8:00am and 10:30am will include special music from Tyrone Greive, Michael Keller, Nancy Linder and Ted Reinke, a special anniversary litany and worship led by current Midvale pastors, Katie Baardseth, Blake Rohrer and Ken Smith, as well as returning pastors who will participate in a procession and liturgy.

Hospitality time from 9:15 to 10:15am will include an opportunity to view displays of Midvale's history, a selection of Midvale's artwork, and time for fellowship. The displays will remain available to view through the end of May.

Thank you to the 70th Anniversary Committee and all who planned and coordinated this celebration: Nancy Abraham, Gary Grummer, Margaret Hoffman, Carol Leaver, Mike Leaver, Liz Mael, Nancy McMahon, Irma Quirin, Jean Sandrock, Paul Sandrock, Suzy Tegge, Corinna Wells, Pastor Katie Baardseth, Pastor Blake Rohrer, Pastor Ken Smith



# MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Midvale Community Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to **PRAISE, LIVE** and **SHARE** God's love.

4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison, WI 53711  
(608) 238-7119 [midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org)

