



Jesus has a place for you!

by Pastor Blake Rohrer

Worship in May begins with one of my favorite promises Jesus' makes. It is from John's gospel. Jesus is speaking with his disciples on his final night with them. He knows the days ahead will be difficult. So he gives them these words of promise to help them understand that Jesus has a purpose for what is to come: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."

Jesus promises that we will always have a place in God's house! Jesus further promises that it is not up to us to find our way there, but he will lead us into God's presence. Jesus will always be with us, no matter what!

I have often used these promises when I am preaching at a funeral. I trust that Jesus' promise of "dwelling places" in God's house is a clear promise that there is a place for us in heaven with God once we die. Jesus went to the cross and death ahead of us, and was resurrected before us, in order to lead us through death and into eternal life with God.

However, there is an additional meaning in Jesus' words, one that I find complements and reinforces the promise that one day we will live again with Jesus in heaven. Jesus' promise of a dwelling place can be applied just as well to the church, God's home on earth. The church is the body of Christ. The church is a place for all of us to dwell during our lifetimes - a place where we meet the risen Jesus each week in worship, in the sacraments, and in the community of one another. The church has not always done the best job of being a welcoming dwelling place for all people, but I believe that is Jesus' purpose for it. This is Jesus' church, and he has created a place for you! At Midvale, we seek to live out this promise of Jesus. There is a dwelling place for each of us! Here, now in our church, our worship, our faith community, and one day in heaven forever. Join us, and dwell with Jesus who has already made a place for you.



PRAISE

Worship schedule through May 21

All worship is offered in person in the Sanctuary

- Saturday at 5:00pm
- Sunday at 8:00am (also on Facebook Live)
- Sunday at 10:30am

Summer worship schedule begins Memorial Day weekend - May 27-28

All worship is offered in person in the Sanctuary

- Saturday at 5:00pm
- Sunday at 8:00am (also on Facebook Live)
- Sunday at **10:00am** - NOTE change in time



Prospective and new member information session - May 21 at 11:30am

Everyone interested in learning more about Midvale or interested in becoming a member of the congregation is invited to an information session with the pastors. It is an informal opportunity to get to know others who are new to the congregation, to learn about the church's mission and ministry and to ask any questions you might have. An opportunity for a tour of the church will also be provided. Please RSVP to the church office at info@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119.

End of Sunday School year celebration - May 21

Please join us at Westmorland Park at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 21st to celebrate the end of our Sunday school year. ALL are invited to celebrate by having informal play & fellowship time as well as a cupcake decorating station. We invite parents, grandparents, older & younger siblings, leaders & all who want to have fun (even if you didn't attend Sunday school with us). We will go to the park even if it's a bit cool so dress according to the weather. In the event of inclement weather, we will have our party at church on the 2nd floor. Please contact Marita Herkert-Oakland if you have questions: childrensministry@midvalelutheran.org



May 14 worship hike at Picnic Point

Gather from 10:30-10:45 at the Picnic Point entry. You can park in UW Lot 130, next to the entrance. All are welcome for this short hike and worship with prayers and Holy Communion. Regular worship will be offered in the Sanctuary at 10:30am as well.

May 27-28 The Festival of Pentecost

Pentecost is so named because it is commemorated fifty days after Easter. Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In the New Testament book of Acts, the story of the Spirit's arrival to the first Christians is described as a rushing wind and flame. The message of the day is that God's presence in the Spirit comes to all people. Join us for worship this weekend as we celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to share God's inclusive love to all.



Your help is needed! Volunteer to serve in worship.

There are sign up times now available through the end of August for lectors, communion assistants, greeters and acolytes. To offer worship each weekend more than a dozen volunteers are needed. Please sign up and help our community. You will find it a meaningful and fulfilling way to serve. If you don't know your schedule that far in advance, sign up for the earlier dates now and check back later too! Visit the website, midvalelutheran.org, select the "Worship" tab and choose "Serving in Worship" to sign up or contact the church office at 608-238-7119. Thank you!

Adult Education Sundays at 9:15am -Join us in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom

May 7 – Midvale’s Boy Scout Troop 104 with Ben and Elise Uphoff, and the Scouts

You may know that Midvale is the home to Boy Scout Troop 104, and hosts their weekly meetings. Troop members range in age from 10-18. The troop is blessed with many new and enthusiastic parent leaders, including Ben and Elise Uphoff. They have been busy working through their ranks, completing merit badge requirements and enjoying the friendships and camaraderie they have built together.

Over the past few years, Boy Scouts of America has faced a number of significant societal issues such as cultural appropriation, youth safety, and inclusion, and many of our scouts have developed clear ideas about the issues. They are deeply grateful for Midvale’s hospitality and support as a Chartered Organization. The Scouts would like to share what they have been up to and answer questions from the congregation.



May 14 – Wisconsin’s Forests: The Only Constant is Change with Paul DeLong

Forests cover nearly half of Wisconsin. They have been shaped by both the forces of nature and the actions of people for millennia. The benefits we derive from forests are many, as are the challenges they face. We will explore the history of forests and their uses, and ponder past, present, and future challenges, including land use changes, a changing climate, invasive species, and evolving uses of wood products that replace more carbon-intensive alternatives.

Paul DeLong is Associate Dean for Policy, Operations, and Engagement, for UW-Madison Extension. He has served as Senior Vice President of Conservation at the American Forest Foundation in Washington, D.C. , where he led programs engaging diverse landowners across the country and leveraged partnerships to further the Foundation’s conservation impact. DeLong previously held positions at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 1992-2016, including as Division Administrator and Chief State Forester.



May 21– The Work of the Border Servant Corps at the U.S. – Mexico Border with Pastor Katie Baardseth

In 1997, Dot Quaintance, a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, NM founded Border Servant Corps as a ministry of the congregation. Since then, the BSC community has served the border region of southern New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México. Per the BSC website, "Together, we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly in the U.S./México borderlands by hosting groups interested in accompaniment-style immersion, where relationships and first-hand educational experiences about border issues are prioritized; creating opportunities for community members to immerse themselves in education and service in the borderlands; and accompanying our sisters and brothers on the U.S. - México border."

This past January, Pastor Katie Baardseth participated in a BSC trip to the border. In this Adult Forum, she will share her experiences and observations about the situation at the border, and consider future opportunities for Midvale to support this important work.

May 28 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Forum

Adult Forum will take a break until September. You can find more information on page 4 about our **Adult Summer Bible School**, a series of discussions led by Pastor Ken Smith. This year’s Summer Bible School will focus on creativity and its role in our lives of faith.

Zoom link - You do not need to register to attend the Adult Forum on Zoom. Reference our weekly newsletter, The Moments, for the Zoom link or contact the church office.

From Pastor Blake - summer sabbatical plans

I am grateful for the longstanding sabbatical policy of Midvale Community Lutheran Church that offers this important and meaningful time of rest and renewal for its pastors. This summer I will be taking a scheduled sabbatical. As your pastor, I am blessed to serve a variety of roles that allow me a central place in the life of our congregation: preacher, presider for the sacraments of God’s grace, teacher, spiritual guide, pastoral visitor, confidant, encourager, organizer and more. I love being a part of this church and my work as pastor. I have been a pastor for over half of my life now!

The role of a pastor is unique, with responsibilities and demands that follow a different schedule and rhythm. I am aware of the importance of staying healthy in all areas so that I can continue to serve God joyfully. A sabbatical is an opportunity to experience spiritual renewal, to rest, to gain new perspectives and experiences, and to pursue special interests. I will be away from May 22-August 21. I know I will return eager to resume my ministry and reconnect with you. Thank you for your continued trust and grace as I take my scheduled break and keep me in your prayers. Peace to you- Pastor Blake

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.

LIVE

Church photo directory - can you help?

As we recognize the 70th anniversary of our congregation, a number of people have asked the church office about producing a photo directory of members. The last photo directory was printed in 2014. However, the process of creating one needs volunteer leaders. If you would be willing to help coordinate the creation of a printed photo directory, please contact Laura Svaren at lauras@midvalelutheran.org or the church office at 608-238-7119. If enough people are willing to help in this process, we could move forward! Thank you for your consideration.

Midvale currently does have an online directory for members to access called Realm. Every member can login to Realm from a link at the bottom of the church webpage - midvalelutheran.org - or directly by visiting onrealm.org. In Realm, you can update your personal information, add a photo and connect with others. You can also securely check your giving and make donations. If you have never logged in to Realm or need assistance, please contact Laura Svaren at lauras@midvalelutheran.org or the church office at 608-238-7119 and someone will be glad to help you.



Travel to the Holy Land with Pastor Blake - March 1-13, 2024

The trip is over half-full, but there are still spaces available. Pastor Blake is hoping to have most of the group registered by the end of May (but if space is available, registrations can continue until November, 2023). The Holy Land is a place full of beauty and inspiration. We will walk in the lands of the Bible, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We will share moments of group reflection, prayer and worship to deepen our experience and understanding. Our time will include authentic encounters with the people who live in the land today. Our itinerary and the smaller group size allows us to move beyond the typical tourist sites to a richer exchange. Details about the trip, including an itinerary and cost, are on the church website midvalelutheran.org by selecting the "Grow" tab and choosing the Holy Land Trip link. For questions or more information, contact Pastor Blake - blaker@midvalelutheran.org.

Adult Bible School 2023

The Adult Education Committee at Midvale has once again assembled an Adult Summer Bible School. This is our fourth summer now, and we've had a wonderful time together. Many discussions and reflections have resulted in this year's theme: Creativity.

Creativity is certainly a theological theme, especially as we think about creation stories, and the creative approach of Jesus to his own faith. And creativity is what generates much of our thought and conversation about God and the church in a changing world. It may be said that the times we live in actually require us to be creative and innovative as we navigate an ever changing future.

There are many creative people at Midvale as well, and some of them have volunteered their time for presentations which come out of their own creative lives and experience. Through the summer, we will be looking at creativity in scripture and theology, the creative work of artists in the congregation, and the work of many to help us become a creative congregation.

There are eleven sessions planned for the summer, beginning on June 21. The first ten are in the Fellowship Hall at Midvale. All but one are on Wednesday mornings, starting at 10:00am and ending around 11:45am with light refreshments. The July 6 presentation is a Thursday morning, due to the holiday. Arrangements are being made for online involvement for those sessions which do not involve hands on participation. The final session is another of our morning retreats at Holy Wisdom, this one designed to help us pull together the eleven sessions and to reflect on how to be creative people. You can find the titles and descriptions of the sessions and register to attend on our website, midvalelutheran.org/adult-bible-school.

Please join us for the sessions. You can attend some or all of the sessions. Pre-registration is very helpful. And we have a limit this year of 20 for the retreat. Join us once again for thoughtful and inspiring mornings this summer.

Save the date for Vacation Bible School, August 7-10

Midvale's Vacation Bible School will be held on August 7-10 from 5:30 - 8pm. This year's theme is "Operation Restoration: Mending God's world." Children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to participate. Contact childrensministry@midvalelutheran.org for more information!



MCLC Garden Ministry

The Midvale Garden Team is planning and planting seeds for the upcoming garden season of growth and abundance, and you are invited to participate in this joyful ministry.

The headline news this garden season is God is again providing us with the gift of partnering with recent arrivals to the United States. Last year we tended the garden with the Bykov family, from Ukraine. This year we will garden with Ngwa, his wife, Stella and their daughter, Anne. Ngwa was granted asylum last year and Stella and Anne recently arrived from Cameroon. Stella is an experienced gardener and has carried seeds harvested and saved from her garden across the ocean to plant in the communal garden at MCLC. All the produce will be given to Ngwa, Stella and Anne. We will be richly blessed by learning about gardening in Cameroon and by forging meaningful relationships with our siblings at MCLC and the soil we serve.

Gardening days and time will be determined by the availability of fellow gardeners. Last year two teams of 3-5 people gathered for an hour on Tuesday or Friday morning each week. In addition, a group of seven hydration specialists committed to watering the raised beds once a week. The Midvale Garden Team will do its best to accommodate your schedule if you are interested in serving as a gardener. Please contact Jeff Wild at jtwildwi@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as a Midvale gardener by Sunday, May 14.

PS. Check out the decorative garden fencing facing Wakefield St. and Midvale Blvd. All of the material is repurposed from a chandelier and railing spindles purchased from the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Ministry Wing remodelling plans

In January and February, a number of presentations and feedback sessions were offered for the congregation as part of the planning process for an update of our Ministry Wing.



The information received has been incorporated into feedback given to our architect, Paul Barribeau, of Groth Design, and our contractor, Findorff. The Ministry Wing task force expects to receive updated designs and pricing in late April or early May. The next steps will be to finalize a plan and present it to the Council and congregation. Look for more information in the coming weeks and months as the church moves forward with this exciting project for our future ministry!

Seventy Years of Love

by Dylan Abraham
Member since 1958

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

*Is celebrating seventy years,
We have all been through it together
Through all of the laughs and tears.*

*We started from scratch
And we've grown together,
Loving and caring
Forever and ever.*

*We have been a community
That has grown with love,
And serving our Lord
Who is high above.*

*We have served ourselves
And many others,
Loving one another
As sisters and brothers.*

*We have grown in community
And we have cared for all,
Deep in our hearts
We have answered God's call.*

*So our seventy years
Have been full of love,
Serving our God
And sharing our love.*

Memorials

Vicki Doering Hays
Mark and Julie Bangsberg

Virgil Jurrens
Scott and Margaret Kramer
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Jurrens
The Kangas Family
Becky Windschiegl
Helen Maulbetsch
Ron and Deanna Cox
Lila Jean Stahnke
Jeff and Sue Richardson

Truett and Danie Tidwell
Fred and Mary Raether
Marjorie Gray
Pauline McNeil
Michelle Newberry
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Kyle
Loren and Laurie Jurrens
Mike and Maureen Barsema
Richard and Charlene Adams

Marion Thoresen
Sharon Kampen

SHARE

Have you remembered Midvale Community Lutheran Church in your will or estate plan?

When you make or revise your will or estate plan, or review your life insurance or retirement fund beneficiaries, please consider naming Midvale Community Lutheran Church as one of your beneficiaries. The use of the following sample bequest language will ensure that your gift is directed appropriately: I hereby leave (a percentage or a dollar amount or the residue) of my estate or trust to Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd., Madison, WI to be used (as outlined in the Endowment Fund resolution or as designated for a specific ministry or purpose). Midvale Community Lutheran Church is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The church's Federal IRS Tax ID number is: 41-1568278. If you have any questions, please contact one of the pastors or the church business manager at bookkeeper@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119.

Midvale Church Calendar

The church calendar is available on our website midvalelutheran.org under the "News" tab

May Baptism Birthdays

Congratulations to our young people and their families as they celebrate the day on which God said to them, "I love you. You are mine!"



5/8	† Ruby Lindsley	5/19	† Judy Ziegler
5/12	† Gus Lindsley	5/20	† Wyatt Hill
5/12	† Eli Minko	5/21	† Claire Anderson
5/13	† Arthur Waldron	5/22	† Eriketa Henak
5/14	† Henry Webb	5/23	† Lucas Porcaro
5/15	† Xander Austin	5/26	† Louisa Massnick
5/15	† Graham Harrison	5/27	† Ruby Linder
5/15	† McKinley Schultz	5/29	† Jack Snell
5/15	† Tatum Staniforth	5/30	† Eli Miller
5/19	† Ty Bierke		

In our prayers remember:

† Hospitality as we welcome friends, visitors and guests.

† Health, comfort and healing for: Bill Weiss (father of Becki Fiegel), Richard LaBrie, Jeff Leeder (brother of Randi Leeder), Tonya Pankov (friend of Karen Bogenschneider), Diane Baima and Yurii Potapenko, Nola Allen, Greg Lampe, Greg Leaver (brother of Mike Leaver), Vitaliy Bykov (husband of Snizhana Bykova), Julie Underwood (daughter of Linda Crane), Adrian Gutierrez (grandson of Bob & Carol Ostergren), Lois Ludwig (friend of Neal Hamlett), Toni Combs (friend of Neal Hamlett), Bill Sanquist (friend of Charles Naeseth), Daniel Johansson (nephew of Bianca Tomasini-Johansson and Mats Johansson), Chris Hill, Samantha Kealey (cousin of Elise Uphoff), Cynthia Erdal (aunt of Amy Bishell), Connie Brunner (sister of Barbara Summ), Sam Erickson (brother of Sue Parisi), Richard and Adelle Johnson, and Doug James (brother of Eric James and Gary Hein).

† For the safety and well-being of all who serve our community and nation as first responders, healthcare workers and military personnel, giving thanks for their dedication and courage.

prayer chain

If you have a prayer request, please call Mary Lou Leslie, 849-6450.

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison, WI 53711

Telephone608-238-7119

Email info@midvalelutheran.org

Website midvalelutheran.org

Office Hours 8:30 am-12:30 pm

MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4329 TOKAY BOULEVARD . MADISON . WI 53711

Dated Material

all are welcome!

Summer worship schedule
begins May 27-28

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 8:00am (also on
Facebook Live)

Sunday at 10:00am



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Madison, WI
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CREATIVITY

Adult Bible School

Summer 2023

Information on page 4