

Bird by Bird



by Pastor Katie

Writer Anne Lamott tells a childhood story about her ten-year-old brother. She observed him trying to get a book report on birds written that he'd had three months to write but never started. It was due the next day. Sitting at the kitchen table, surrounded by pencils and unopened books on birds, he was close to tears. He was immobilized by the hugeness of the task ahead. Then his father sat down beside him, put his arm around her brother's shoulder, and said, "Bird by bird, buddy. Just take it bird by bird."

I'm taking it "bird by bird" these days. I hope you are too. We continue to live through a time of change and it can sometimes feel immense. We're trying to gauge where we are pandemic-wise and how to engage with our collective grief. At the same time, we're wanting to celebrate the joys of feeling freer and being together. This time has been referred to as a "liminal season." Liminal is defined as "in-between." We remain between something that has ended and a new thing that has not yet fully begun.

Like the father in Anne Lamott's story, Jesus sits down beside you, puts his arm around your shoulder and says, "Bird by bird, buddy. Just take it bird by bird." For us, taking it bird by bird means both trusting that Jesus is with us, but also looking for his guidance. Jesus has always been our leader. Following his lead, we cannot fail. Sitting next to him, he guides us toward our next steps. Every week at worship, for thousands of years, we the church have been following Jesus' voice through the words in our sacred texts. Bird by bird, text by text, grace by grace- he continually takes us where we need to be.

In this liminal season, have an awareness that faith is kind of like driving a car at night. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way. You don't have to see where you're going, you don't have to see your destination or everything you will pass along the way. You just have to see ten or twenty feet ahead of you.

We'll get there Midvale, with Jesus beside us, bird by bird.



PRAISE

Worship Schedule and Information for June

Sunday at 8:00am in-person worship in the Sanctuary
(pre-registration required)

Sunday at 9:15am online Facebook Live worship

Sunday at 10:30am in-person outdoor worship in the church parking lot June 6, 13, and 27, and at Westmorland Park on June 20 (pre-registration not required)

Helpful information and safety procedures in place for in-person worship are available to read on the church website Worship Schedule page: <https://www.midvalelutheran.org/worship/worship-schedule>

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be offered at all worship times, in-person and online, on the second and fourth weekends of each month, for those who would like to receive the sacrament. The dates for holy communion in June are June 13 and June 27. Holy communion will be distributed using individual, prepackaged communion kits. Wine or grape juice will be available, and gluten free bread will also be offered.

Recognition of High School Graduates

We will celebrate our high school graduates during outdoor worship at 10:30am on Sunday, June 6. During worship we will pray for each graduate, share a gift from the congregation of a quilt made by our Lutheran World Relief Quilters, and present the Harold Wetzel Memorial Scholarships.

Church Building and Office Open in June

After being open by appointment for much of the last year due to precautions regarding COVID-19, the church building is now open M-F from 9:00am - 12:30pm. If you need access at another time, please make an appointment with Pam Frey, our administrative assistant - info@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119.

Special Congregational Meeting - Monday, June 7 at 7pm by Zoom

Water intrusion has been an issue on the church lower level for many years. Ongoing moisture seepage through the walls and several major flooding events have caused peeling paint, rusting and corrosion of the heating units, potential mold and a musty odor. As a result, these spaces are underutilized. The Education Wing Task Force, which commenced its study of the church facilities two years ago, recommends fixing the water infiltration before any work is done to remodel the building. The Congregational Council is recommending the congregation contract with Findorff, Inc. to commence a project to waterproof the foundation of the Education Wing this summer. The purpose of the Special Congregational Meeting is to act on this proposal. Every member has received information in the mail and by email about the project. If you have questions, please reach out to the Council president, Jocelyn Riley, the Education Wing Task Force chairperson, Jen Davel, or the pastors.

The resolution to be considered at the Special Congregational Meeting: *Be it resolved that the congregation approves the foundation waterproofing project to be funded using \$30,000 from the Endowment Fund, \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund, and up to \$105,000 from any combination of a congregational appeal, a loan, and cash on hand in the General Account for a total expenditure not to exceed \$170,000.*

RSVP for the meeting through the link in The Moments email newsletter or by contacting the church office at info@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119. All members of the congregation are encouraged to participate. A Zoom link or phone number will be shared with all meeting registrants so they can join the meeting.

Coffeeless Fellowship

Register by sending an email with the dates you plan to attend to Pastor Ken at kens@midvalelutheran.org. He will email the Zoom meeting information.

- Tuesday, June 1, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, June 2, 10:00am
- Tuesday, June 8, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, June 9, 10:00am

River of Life VBS

This year, we are journeying down the river to learn about God's gracious gift of water.

Monday, August 9 - Thursday, August 12th
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

VBS for 2021 will be another completely unique way of doing ministry together!

What will this year look like?

- After surveying our families, we decided that VBS will be in-person morning-only programming.
- We will also offer materials for families who would like to participate virtually.
- We will adhere to the most up-to-date guidance from the Re-Entry Task Force which currently means we plan to hold everything outdoors with some combination of masks and social distancing but these exact details are subject to change.
- Parents with children who are preschool age or not yet completed kindergarten must remain with their child(ren).
- Parents with children who have completed Kindergarten through sixth grade will have the option to stay with their children as a family unit or to drop off their child(ren).
- We will need to limit registration numbers this year. Midvale members have first priority to register through July 1st. After that we will open any available spots to Midvale friends and non-members. All registrations need to be received by August 1.
- There will be limited opportunities for students 7th-12th grade to serve in leadership roles (not as many as past years).
- There is no separate adult programming this year.
- We will still need adult volunteers!

What will be the same as other years of VBS?

- There will be an Opening/Closing with music & dancing.
- We will explore Bible stories & various countries through a variety of rotation stations, including crafts, games, skits, science, and more!
- We will grow in relationship with God and one another.

Full details and registration information will be available on our website, at <http://midvalelutheran.org/learn-grow/vacation-bible-school>.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Brenda Goble: brendag@midvalelutheran.org

The Racial Justice Forum: Learning Toward Action

A Bimonthly Discussion

Last year, several members of our church created the Racial Justice Group. Our mission statement, approved by our Church Council in September of 2020, provides:

As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore commit to confront and exorcise the sins of silence and inaction in the face of injustice, racism, and white privilege in ourselves, the church, and society.

We are guided by the ELCA Social Statement – Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture – approved nearly thirty years ago, that instructs us to take public leadership, bear witness, engage in deliberation, and advocate for a world where all of God's children are treated equally and have equal opportunities.

In the past year our group has engaged in a variety of activities to prepare ourselves for effective engagement and service in our community. We are pleased to invite all congregation members to join us and participate in a series of discussions about race and justice. The sessions will be from 6:30pm until 8:00pm on Thursdays. Each will begin with a short presentation by a member of the Racial Justice Group followed by a group discussion. Relevant written or video materials will be made available for each session although no advance preparation or attendance of prior forums is required. The schedule includes the following dates. If interested, we suggest putting them on your calendar:

- **June 17, 2021: Slave Narratives – The Reality of Slavery from the Perspective of Enslaved People**
- **August 19, 2021: Black Lives Matters and the History of African-American Social Movements**
- **October 21, 2021: Housing Discrimination – Redlining in Madison**
- **December 16, 2021: Voter Suppression**

The Racial Justice Forums will be held by Zoom. You can participate with video and audio using a computer, mobile device or with audio only using a landline phone. Register for each session using the links in The Moments email newsletter or by contacting the church office at info@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119. All who sign-up will receive the Zoom connection information. Please include the date and/or title of the forum in your message when you sign up. Watch for additional information in upcoming editions of the Moments.

prayer chain

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

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.



Celebrating Immigrant Heritage Month - WALK WITH US! Kickoff Event June 6!

June is Immigrant Heritage Month, and Midvale Community Lutheran Church is joining in the celebration.

Midvale is hosting a kickoff event with the Dane Sanctuary Coalition and with the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA to learn about changes in immigration law since the Biden administration took office in January. **This Zoom event will be held on June 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM. We invite you to join us by signing up on our website: <https://www.midvalelutheran.org/serve-share/immigration-action-team> or by calling the church office 608-238-7119 to receive the Zoom link to attend.**

All of us have immigrant heritage, whether our ancestors arrived here in the holds of slave ships, as explorers seeking new trade routes, as laborers finding employment, as refugees fleeing persecution or economic hardship, or as indigenous peoples who crossed continents and land bridges in search of new homes. Some of us are new arrivals in America, some have immigrant grandparents, some have immigrant roots going back many generations. Each of us has a history of rich cultural experiences to share! And as Christians, we follow Jesus, who teaches us to love our neighbor, no matter where they are from. Forced to leave their homes because of violence, economics, and natural disasters, many people are clamoring to make a new life in the United States. Immigration rules are changing almost daily. One thing is for sure, our community is blessed to be home to two outstanding legal clinics working daily to help new immigrants navigate this challenging landscape and welcome them to America with legal support.

Our kickoff event speakers are:

Aissa Olivarez, Managing Attorney at the Community Immigration Law Center (CILC), housed at Christ Presbyterian Church on Gorham Street. CILC is funded by the city of Madison and by Dane County. Their work is focused on assisting detained immigrants with their legal questions and assisting them to find immigration attorneys to represent them at little or no cost. CILC services are a godsend to people who have lost so much on their journey to this country.

Erin Barbato, Director of the University of Wisconsin Immigrant Justice Clinic. In addition to providing legal services to clients facing deportation, Erin takes her law students on several trips to the southern border each year. The primary goal of these trips is to provide legal representation to unaccompanied children. If you have been reading the news lately, you know that these services are desperately needed! Just imagine being a parent who is facing desperate times in your home country, perhaps with only enough money to send one family member to the United States in hopes that they might survive. You send your beloved child with what may be unscrupulous people, subjecting your child to a dangerous journey. Erin will share her stories of working with children at the border.

As part of Immigrant Heritage Month, we will be conducting a fundraiser for each of these legal clinics so that even more of our immigrant siblings can have full access to their legal rights. Our goal for this area-wide event is to raise at least \$10,000 to support legal cases here and for a trip to the border for UW law students to help unaccompanied children. We have already raised \$2,000 thanks to a grant from the Midvale Endowment Fund!

During the rest of June, we will continue celebrating immigrants and our own immigrant heritage. On June 20, we will have a special immigration focused worship. Other events are also being planned during the month. Please Walk With Us!

– Sponsored by Midvale's Immigration Action Team

Making Us Whole by Dylan Abraham

We live our lives
Day by day
Following Jesus
As He shows the way.

He came from heaven
From God above
Forgiving our sins
Showing His love.

He died on a cross
To make us new
To make us better
Both me and you.

He loves and heals us
A gift for humankind
Now many can see
Who once were blind.

With His love
We now are whole
Filling our spirits
Cleansing our souls.

2021 Harold Wetzel Memorial Scholarship Essay: Esther Svaren



When I am asked to think about my faith, I am always hesitant to share my journey because I feel as though I am not a true Lutheran. My faith has never seemed to be as endless and doubtless as my parents. I used to feel alone, like I didn't belong in the church. As a kid, I really struggled understanding stories in the Bible. The lessons within the passages were based heavily on metaphors that the logical side of me would miss the meaning entirely. Early on I had simplified in my mind that church only had a couple of values. Values like forgiveness and love. I was unable to see the whole picture of what it meant to be a Midvale member because I had closed off my mind for church to be about anything deeper.

Then one summer my parents decided that we would go to a Bible camp for a week. I was quite young at the time and was terrified of the idea. Mostly because it was based on religion and forming relationships. I didn't see any benefit to attending, but I was very wrong. Little did I know, it would change my whole definition of faith. It was a pretty normal summer camp. I made friends, rode horses, and camped outside like any other camp. The only real difference was the obvious focus on faith. To me that would present itself most clearly in the daily worship we would have by the campfires.

For the first, I was actually able to feel that same enthusiasm that others had. I didn't have to try to comprehend the power through a sermon because I was able to feel it. Sitting around the fire hearing songs and prayers really initiated the beginning of my relationship with God. Hearing my parents voices blend in with the songs we sang made me feel the oneness of God's presence. I have a hard time trying to describe the love and community I felt in that moment because there aren't any strong enough words. I hadn't felt that feeling of community and

the love before. Their short, music filled worship broke the rules I learned about being quiet or proper. It freed me from what I thought my faith had to look like. Now looking back I think it was one of the first times I experienced my faith the way my parents did. I learned that worship wasn't a one size fits all and I did in fact belong in the church community.

I would not have been able to have that experience without my background at Midvale. Being a part of this church allowed me to understand the importance of connections. I had been receiving the tools and lessons I needed all along. I just needed to have my eyes opened. The love and power I felt at camp was one that I could feel at church too. I am ever grateful for Midvale's patience and steadiness, despite the bumps. I now know I can rely on Midvale to be there for me to explore my faith. I am so blessed to have that love and grace shown to me during times of doubt.

Life in God's Garden: Creation, Spirit, Challenges, Hope Adult Bible School Summer 2021

Adult Bible School 2021 continues this summer for adults here at Midvale Community Lutheran Church. Learning ministry and growing in the faith for all age groups are strengths of our congregation and ABS2021 builds on that tradition. The theme for the summer is Life in God's Garden. We will focus on our world, environment, creation, the presence of the spirit in nature, ecological challenges, and hope. God's Garden has experienced a global pandemic this year, and we will reflect on our experiences in light of our faith.

The program is developed by the Adult Education Committee and is coordinated by Ken Smith, a member of that committee, and our visitation pastor. The program is made possible by a grant from Midvale's endowment foundation to support the off-site opportunities for the summer.

Another strength of Midvale Community is that currently over ten pastors and one deacon rostered by the ELCA are members of our congregation. This is a rich resource for congregational reflection and discussion, and ABS2021 engages several of these rostered members affiliated with Midvale in this year's summer opportunities for adults, as volunteer instructors. At the end of August, our current pastors, Blake and Katie, will offer a session on this year's theme.

Currently, we are planning these sessions to be either online or on site experiences. When it is safe to do so, we will begin returning to the church building.

Three off-site experiences are planned for late summer and fall. The first tentative off-site experience is a morning work and study time in July at the Madison Christian Community and Advent Lutheran Community Garden Project which works with area food pantries. In September, we will visit the new Adult Learning facility at Lutherdale near Elkhorn. Early in September, we will continue our urban rural dialog with Sugar Creek Lutheran and Pastor Dick Inglet as we consider our recovery from the pandemic and future possibilities from our different perspectives.

Finally, in early October, we are planning a morning at Holy Wisdom Monastery. In this reflective space, we will take some time to assess our relationship to creation. We will pray, reflect, and share insights. Lunch is included.

No one should feel like they should attend every session. And, sessions are offered at different times and different days of the week throughout the summer to encourage broad participation. Please attend as you are able.

SHARE

ABS2021 Reservations

Because of the limitations of transportation and the size of the off-site locations, there are limitations with respect to the number we can take, and pre-registration is required for our off-site events.

Registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. To register, look for the registration links in the June issues of The Moments email newsletter or contact the church office at info@midvalemutheran.org or 608-238-7119. We ask that all those in off-site activities be affiliated with Midvale.

All on-site events at Midvale are open to all interested. Registration is required whether the event is virtual or live. If you are planning to come, let us know so that we can provide a Zoom invitation or have an appropriate room and printed materials available for the entire group.

Please see the full schedule on the back cover.

Welcome to Midvale's New Facilities Manager Jay Wians



I have been a member of MCLC since 1996. My wife, Teri, and I are celebrating our 32nd wedding anniversary this May. We have two grown children and 4 grandchildren (and another one on the way!)

There have been many career changes in my life. I have worked in such fields as higher education, numerous management positions,

and law enforcement. I am at a point in my life where I want to do the things that I enjoy doing. Facilities work and independent projects have always been an interest of mine, so when the time was right, I couldn't pass on the opportunity to talk with Pastor Blake about this position with MCLC. I guess things worked out for both parties!

In my spare time, I enjoy working on my yard at home as well as some income properties we have. There's no end to the projects! On the recreational side, we enjoy boating, golf, and road trips to see the kids and grandkids.

As of this writing, I am finishing up my first week at the church. It has been very overwhelming at times but I'm getting a grasp on the operation and responsibilities. If there is anything you need or want me to do reference our facilities and grounds, don't hesitate to contact me at the church or by email: facilities@midvalemutheran.org.

Library Notes: Writer, meet Reader

Good news from the church library - we are open for business! One of our newest and most exciting new books is from one of our own. Hot off the press is **40 Days with Jerry Apps**, by Jeff Wild. (Little Creek Press, 2021) Library team member Anne Lundin shares a bit about how this wonderful little book came about.

When Jeff Wild retired from active ministry, and with his wife Nan became active members of Midvale Community Lutheran Church, he was moved to find that one of his favorite writers is a longtime member, Jerry Apps. Jeff made it a point to grow their friendship as he read more and more of Jerry Apps' over thirty-five books of various genres. Jeff Wild resonated with the spiritual dimension of Jerry Apps' relationship to the land, his recognition that the land is alive and needs to be nurtured - and remembered.

In this collection of forty devotionals, Jeff Wild draws upon Jerry Apps' writings as stimulus for his own reflections on Christian living in relationship to God's own creation. Together there is a bond between Jerry Apps' farm and rural writings and Jeff Wild's meditations on the good earth and God. Such serendipity!

Newest books are on the display table – have a look and check something out for your summer reading.

June 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!"



6/2	† Kinsley Webb	6/14	† Sonja Bodden
6/3	† Frankie Kinzel	6/15	† Isaiah Block
6/5	† Oscar Wells	6/16	† Perrin Chodara
6/8	† Sophia Harrison	6/23	† Eleanor Kruse
6/9	† Graeme Leyen	6/26	† Colin Fiegel
6/13	† Greta Lorenz	6/26	† Roni Fiegel

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison, WI 53711

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James A. Olson

Attorney - Church Member
Lawton & Cates, S.C.
345 W. Washington Ave.,
Ste. 201 Madison, WI 53703
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Life in God's Garden: Creation, Spirit, Challenges, Hope Adult Bible School Summer 2021

June 22, Tuesday, 6:30pm: Opening Devotion,
Orientation and Conversation on Eldre Fellesskap with
Pastor Ken Smith

June 23, Wednesday, 10:00am: Session I with Pastor
Larry Pinnow: Gardens and Gardening in the Hebrew
Scriptures

June 30, Wednesday, 10:00am: Session II with Pastor
Larry Pinnow: Gardens and Gardening in the Parables of
Jesus

July 7, Wednesday, 10:00am: Session I with Pastor
Jeff Wild: God as Gardener

July 14, Wednesday, 10:00am: Session II with Pastor
Jeff Wild: Forging Peace and Reconciliation in the
Garden

July 21, Wednesday, 8:30-11:30am: Public Garden
Work Session at MCC/Advent Lutheran with Ann Ward
and Jean Einerson, members of Advent and MCC who
have led the gardening mission for the past seven years.
After orientation, we will join others in the morning work
session in the garden, which includes a no-bending-over

option. A garden story share, "From the wheat of the field
to communion bread" with Pastor Jeff Wild, will also take
place for those who do not participate in the work session.

August 25, Wednesday, 10:00am: Pastors Blake Rohrer
and Katie Baardseth

September 1, Wednesday, 10:00 am: "Digging In" to
Garden Images and Story Lines with Pastor Gary Hein
and Eric James.

September 9, Thursday, 9:00am-1:30pm: Morning
Small Group Gathering at Lutherdale's new Adult
Learning Center near Elkhorn, WI: Rural Urban Dialog
III Pastor Dick Inglet and Sugar Creek Lutheran Church:
Healing and Recovery; prayer, conversation and
reflection on the past six months, and reflections on
healing in the New Testament.

October 7, Thursday, 9:00am-1:30pm: Holy Wisdom
Morning Retreat Worship, Reflection, Conversation
including lunch: Life in the Garden facilitated by Pastor
Ken Smith and Deacon Judy Nolde.

Learn how to participate on Pages 5-6 of this issue.