

Yes, and...



by Pastor Katie

It's been a year with a theme of "NO". No gatherings, no non-essential trips, no in person school. Saying no to opportunities gradually phased into a mindset. "Saying no" was essential during the pandemic, it meant staying safe and it meant survival. That's what made it such a hard year.

And yet, the pandemic also stretched us to find fresh ways of saying "YES." Creating opportunities to say yes fine-tuned our skills at improvising. For example, in our family, youth team soccer may have been cancelled, but we could say "yes" to deer hunting. Friends could not gather inside for birthday cake, but yes we could host an outdoor bonfire. Improvising a "yes" out of a "no" became a habit. We've become good at improvising.

Comedian Tina Fey has lifted up how learning improvisation changed her life. Learning improv comedy back in the 1990s shaped the core of how she views life. Here are two of Fey's rules of improv:

1. The first rule of improv is to say YES.
2. The second rule of improv is to not only say YES, but say YES AND....

We are all improvisers! The central principle of "yes, and . . ." in improvisational theater has produced a lot of great comedy. But it also offers an approach to life in general, and the spiritual life in particular. From Moses to Ruth to St. Paul, scripture is full of people boldly saying "yes, and . . ." as they accept what life throws their way and build upon it.

And, through Jesus, we see that God improvises. God will take whatever comes God's way and work with it for good. God, in Christ Jesus, put on flesh and lived among us. What an approach! Choosing to have an authentic relationship with you. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we see God doing whatever it takes - even a cross and resurrection- to communicate the depth of God's great love for you. In Jesus, God says, "YES - I love you." Then God goes on to say, "YES - AND nothing, not even death, can separate you from my love."

PRAISE

Worship Schedule and Information for July

Sunday at 8:00am in-person worship in the Sanctuary (pre-registration is NO longer required)

Sunday at 9:15am online Facebook Live worship

Sunday at 10:30am in-person outdoor worship in the church parking lot July 4, 11 and 25, and at Westmorland Park on July 18.

Helpful information for in-person worship is available on the church website Worship Schedule page: <https://www.midvalelutheran.org/worship/worship-schedule>

Holy Communion Offered on the Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month

The dates for holy communion in July are July 11 and July 25. 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. Those worshipping online may prepare holy communion elements on their own or pick-up the communion kits from church ahead of time from the church office.

Worship at Westmorland Park Continues the Third Sunday of the Month

The regular 10:30am outdoor worship on July 18 will be at Westmorland Park. The park provides a beautiful setting under the shade of the trees. Everyone is also invited to bring a picnic lunch for themselves to enjoy after worship. It will be a great opportunity to share fellowship and connect with one another!

prayer chain

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

Special Guest Preacher - Pastor Emily Tveite, UW- Madison Lutheran Campus Ministry



Come to worship on July 11 to meet Pastor Emily Tveite, who serves on behalf of the ELCA as the campus pastor at UW-Madison. This student ministry traces its roots back to 1905, and continues today to serve the university community. The mission and vision of the campus ministry is "to unite students in God's grace and to engage the world in Christ's love. Responding to God's call, Lutheran Campus Ministry creates an affirming

community that provides students with opportunities to deepen faith, engage minds, and serve neighbors." Midvale is a partner congregation of the UW-Madison Campus Ministry. Offerings made to Midvale go to support Pastor Emily and the student ministry through contributions from our Social Ministry budget each year.

Thank You and God's Blessings to Mary Schmidt



Mary Schmidt, Midvale's Chancel Choir director, has announced her retirement, resigning from her position effective August 31. Midvale has been blessed by Mary's seven years of work in this role. Mary's leadership has helped the Chancel Choir grow and share inspiring and meaningful music for our worship. Over the last year she has been committed to keep the choir connected and enabled

choir members to support one another in a difficult time. Thank you Mary! Those who wish to share a note or card with Mary can mail one to her at the church address or drop one off at church office.

Letter from the Congregational President



In a special congregational Zoom meeting on Monday June 7, 2021, the Midvale Community Lutheran Church congregation voted unanimously to support the proposed foundation waterproofing project as submitted by the MCLC Council at its last 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."

We want to acknowledge that we are building on the long-time dedication, talents, monetary contributions, and sweat equity of generations of Midvale Community Lutheran Church's members since our church was established in 1953. Many of us have lived through various additions, renovations, enhancements, and rubble and dust that have made our church increasingly better able to serve as a framework for living out our faith. The waterproofing project is necessary to ensure that the foundation of our Education Wing doesn't deteriorate any further and to ameliorate the water and mold issues that have plagued it for years. In the words of the old hymn, "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord." But the frame for our physical worship also needs a solid foundation and the congregation voted to shore it up. Findorff, our general contractor, will begin immediately on the work that the congregation authorized. Many, many thanks to the work of the Education Wing Task Force, especially Jen Davel and Gene Nelson, for all the time and work they put into planning this project.

-Jocelyn Riley, congregational president



Education Wing Foundation Waterproofing Project Underway - Donations Now Being Received

Work has begun on the project, and the goal is to have it completed by the end of July. Every member has received a mailing with information about the project and an invitation to make a contribution so that the church can complete the work without taking on any ongoing debt. In thanksgiving to the generosity and faith of church members and friends, we have already received well over 25 percent of our donation goal of \$100,000! If you would like to contribute, you can give online using the Give Now button on our website, midvalelutheran.org and selecting the Education Wing Project Fund, or you can send a check with "Education Wing Project" on the memo line. Thank you!

July 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!"



- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|------------------|
| 7/1 | † Ryan Dillman | 7/15 | † Raelynn Hagy |
| 7/1 | † Katherine Mueller | 7/15 | † Ada Immel |
| 7/5 | † Odin Baardseth | 7/17 | † Ellie Vinje |
| 7/6 | † Felix Underwood | 7/20 | † Freya Bottorff |
| 7/8 | † Clara Wells | 7/22 | † Callahan Leyen |
| 7/9 | † Françoise Adja Ziegler | 7/23 | † Jack Killoran |
| 7/11 | † Samuel Thill | 7/25 | † Kally Haines |
| 7/13 | † Henry Anhalt | 7/25 | † Sophia Wegner |

In Every Way
by Dylan Abraham

*He came from heaven
The angels sing
Forgiving their sins
A beautiful thing.*

*He walked the earth
And healed the ill
The words He said
Are with us still.*

*He taught the crowds
About God's kingdom
above*

*His words were kind
Like a gentle dove.*

*When He was on the cross
The women cried
Shedding tears
When He died.*

*He is with us
Every day
He loves us all
In every way*

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LIVE

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

The theme for the summer for Adult Bible School (ABS) 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. Sessions will be both at Midvale and off-site. 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.

ABS 2021 Reservations

To register, look for the registration links in the The Moments email newsletter or contact the church office at info@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119. If you are planning to come, let us know so that we can plan appropriately and have printed materials available for the entire group.

ABS 2021 Schedule

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.

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

2021 Harold Wetzel Memorial Scholarship Essay: Kobey Frey



I have participated in many events and activities with Midvale over the years, but I think the one that shaped my faith the most is the 2017 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. This was my first major mission trip with the church and my life was impacted greatly during and after it. During this trip I got to travel, help people, and be in a massive community, and none of

it would have happened without my faith.

My first time on an airplane was during this trip, so I didn't really know what to expect. The first flight from Madison to Chicago went fine, but due to storms the layovers for our two flights to Denver and then Houston went from 2 hours to 8 hours! This was obviously annoying at first, but it turns out being stranded in

another state with a group for 8 hours is a good way to get to know them. I had done lock ins at the church for community bonding before, but this was on another level. We had to stay in the airport the entire time, so we spent the time walking and talking around the massive Chicago airport and playing games. I feel like a good way to improve your faith is to get to know people that believe the same, and this experience definitely qualifies for that.

The timing of this trip could be seen as very good or very poor. Back in 2017, hurricane Harvey destroyed parts of Houston and the surrounding area. This made parts of the trip uncertain, but it also ended up being the perfect time to go. For our service learning day, our group went to a formerly flooded little league park in a low income area of Houston to help paint murals and restore the park. There were about 50 kids helping at the little league park, but there were thousands of kids helping all around Houston. I had volunteered before, but never at a single event this huge before. It opened my eyes to how with enough people, even the biggest changes can happen. All of us were brought together by our faith and were able to help Houston recover from one of its worst disasters. To this day I try to remember that I'm part of something bigger and try to do my part.

At the end of every day, there was a huge gathering in NRG Stadium, where the seats were completely packed. There were floor seats as well, but to get those you had to get in line outside many hours early and wait. Brenda told us this from the start, but at the beginning of the trip none of us thought it was worth it, that the stadium seats were good enough. A few days into the trip, though, we started thinking we might as well go all out, and on one of the last days, we went for the seats. We got in line 3 or 4 hours early and passed the time talking to the other groups that had the same idea. In the end, we got our floor seats and none of us regretted it. We got to see the music up close, be on the jumbotron, and from the bottom you could look up and really see how many people were in the stadium. The prior experiences on the trip made us more open to trying something new and I try to carry the same mentality today. During the trip, we went from "why would we?" to "why not?" to "definitely!" and these phases can be seen in my life and faith today as well. After this event I was much more open to doing more trips and events with the church, and my experience with my faith benefited greatly from it.

The week I spent in Houston completely changed my life and faith. After the trip I knew my fellow youth group members much better, I felt like I was a part of something huge, and I became more outgoing and daring. Being more involved in the church helped me understand why we are all here better and the goal to improve others' lives. My faith and involvement with the church surely would have been very different had I not gone on this trip.

SHARE

Communication Resources

In addition to our monthly The Community newsletter which you are reading, there are other important ways to stay connected with your church.

Website - midvalelutheran.org hosts information on all our ministries, including worship and other events. There are many resources for you to explore. Please check it out!

Weekly Email Newsletter - The Midvale Moments contains current information for the upcoming weekend and week ahead. If you aren't receiving this, sign-up using the News and Events tab on the church website or email info@midvalelutheran.org and request to be added.

Realm - This is Midvale's online directory and the place where you can update your contact information or make an online donation - you can access your account at onrealm.org or from a link on the bottom of our website. If you haven't created an account or need assistance signing in, contact our connections coordinator, Laura Svaren: lauras@midvalelutheran.org. Realm is what is used to send the weekly worship reminder email as well as timely emails to the entire congregation from the pastors or messages about special events.

Facebook Page - This is a public page where we live stream our online worship and post announcements, devotions and other information. If you are on Facebook, like our page: [facebook.com/midvalelutheran](https://www.facebook.com/midvalelutheran)

Facebook Group - This is a group for members of the congregation to interact and share thoughts and conversations about faith and our church. You can request to join the church Facebook group from the church's main public Facebook page or by contacting the office.

YouTube Channel - There are videos from various ministries, including recordings of past Adult Forums, musical offerings and more. Subscribe to our channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MidvaleCommunityLutheranChurch>

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

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Office Hours 9:00am-12:30pm

Midvale Staff

Co-Pastor, Katie Baardseth: katieb@midvalelutheran.org

Co-Pastor, Blake Rohrer: blaker@midvalelutheran.org

Visitation Pastor, Ken Smith: kens@midvalelutheran.org

Director of Children's, Youth & Family Ministry, Brenda Goble: brendag@midvalelutheran.org

Administrative Assistant, Pam Frey: info@midvalelutheran.org

Business Manager/Bookkeeper, Amanda Mueller: bookkeeper@midvalelutheran.org

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Director of Music Ministry, Laura Svaren: lauras@midvalelutheran.org

Chancel Choir Director, Mary Schmidt: marys@midvalelutheran.org

Handbell Choir Director, Eleanor Mertenich: handbells@midvalelutheran.org

Children's Ministry Assistant, Marita Herkert-Oakland: childrensministry@midvalelutheran.org

Director of Children's Music, Ann McDermott: childrensmusicministry@midvalelutheran.org

Facilities Manager, Jay Wians: facilities@midvalelutheran.org

Congregational Council

You can contact Church Council members directly through your online Midvale Realm account or or by contacting the church office.

President, Jocelyn Riley

Vice-President/President-Elect, Greg Lampe

Treasurer, Derek Matzke

Secretary, Becca Burnett

Adult Education, Nelse Grundvig

Building and Grounds, Hans Borcherding

Social Ministry, Ben Kempinen

Evangelism and Communications, Laurie Stensland

Congregational Life, Liz Mael and Corinna Wells

Children/Youth Education, Mindy Anderson & Stefany Grainger

Stewardship, Leah Morrell

Worship, Randy Schultz

6 Youth and Family Ministry, Becki Fiegel & Julie Walsh



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