



25 YEARS OF PASTORING

by Pastor Blake Rohrer

I have been a pastor for 25 years as of August 3, 2022. It is hard to believe! I am grateful to have this calling. I was ordained at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minnesota in 1997, the church I attended for most of my growing up years. My mom took me to church nearly every week. This experience nurtured my faith as well as my appreciation of the community

of meaning and purpose that the church offers. Of course, I didn't always think I would be a pastor. When I was little, I was fascinated with big vehicles, and I remember really wanting to be a school bus or a truck driver! Later, in high school, we had an assignment to research two jobs that we might want to do. I wrote about being a professional soccer player and a forest ranger.

When I started at St. Olaf College, my intent was to do something with math or science. I graduated with majors in physics and mathematics, but by the end of my college time, I felt called in another direction. After graduation I enrolled at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and began the four year program to receive my Master of Divinity degree and be ordained as a pastor in the ELCA. There were many people and experiences that helped me discern this pathway, including pastors Phil Johnson and George S. Johnson from my home church, as well as serving as a summer counselor at two ELCA camps. One of them, Christikon, in Montana, is where Midvale's youth went this summer!

Being a pastor has been a remarkable journey. I served my internship at Grace Lutheran in Wenatchee, Washington. My first call was as an associate pastor at Community Lutheran in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, where I worked with Pastor George Miner, a great influence for me. In 2002 I came to Midvale as an associate pastor with Bruce Loewenhagen. From 2008-2014 I worked in the bishop's office, and in 2014 I returned to Midvale to serve as co-pastor with another excellent colleague, Katie Baardseth (my amazing wife!). In my 25 years as a pastor, I've backpacked with youth in the High Sierras, camped in the Boundary Waters, and led groups to the Holy Land and Germany. I've also had to deal with quite a few things they never taught me about in seminary, like when you find a rattlesnake in the church bathroom, or when the baptismal font is gushing water into the sanctuary or a global pandemic. The last two plus years have been the most difficult of any I've had as a pastor, but, for most of us, they've been the most difficult years we have experienced in our lifetimes.

Throughout the surprises, the highs and the lows of the last 25 years, I am continually encouraged, inspired and motivated by the people with whom I serve - by all of you! It is such a privilege and blessing to build relationships together so that God's love might be experienced and shared. It is a partnership and calling that we all have been given. In baptism, as well as in the rite of ordination, the charge we receive is to bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world. May we continue to live into this holy calling together, trusting in God's grace, whatever the future may bring.



PRAISE

Summer Worship Schedule

Now through Labor Day weekend (September 3-4)

- Saturday at 5:00pm
- Sunday at 8:15am (also on Facebook Live)
- Sunday at 10:00am

4th Sunday 10:00am worship at Westmorland Park - August 28

For our worship in the park, please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. In the case of inclement weather, notice will be shared on the church Facebook page on Sunday morning if the worship needs to be moved into the Sanctuary.



Seminarian Kelsey Johnson to preach in worship August 6-7

Kelsey Johnson (she/her) is an academic senior MDiv at the Lutheran School of Theology in

Chicago on an ordination track in the ELCA, hoping to one day serve a ministry interweaving congregational leadership and chaplaincy. She has a passion for community organizing, and believes that the heart of ministry is through relationships with those around us. Prior to seminary, Kelsey served as a Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer in Palestine from 2017-2018, Hunger Advocacy Fellow for ELCA Advocacy in Wisconsin from 2018-2019. She has experience in coffee shop ministry, and worked in Lutheran outdoor ministry for 6 years. She is a member of Midvale, and is grateful for the congregation's generous support through her seminary journey.



Final summer hymn sing - August 18 at 7pm

All are welcome to participate in this casual and fun hymn sing and share some fellowship together. Meet in the Sanctuary.



Coffee and snacks hospitality time - sign up to host

The hospitality time is offered Sundays between 9:00 - 10:00am and 10:45 - 11:15am. You can sign up to help with one part, such as to make coffee, provide treats or clean-up, or sign-up for the entire morning. You can sign up online on the church website (midvalelutheran.org) under the "Care and Connect" tab by selecting the "Hospitality Hour" section, call the church office, or look on the bulletin board outside the office. There are volunteer guides in the coffee area to explain the process. Feel free to sign up with a friend or have your committee or ministry team sign up for a Sunday. It's a great way to get to know other MCLC members.



Worship volunteers please sign up!

To serve as a lector, greeter, communion assistant or acolyte, please use the link in "The Moments" or on the website by selecting the Worship tab and serving in worship. There are open spaces from now through the end of the year for you to volunteer. Thank you!



Christian Country Wit- nesses to lead music August 7 in worship

Both Sunday worship times will feature the lively coun-

try gospel music of the Christian Country Witnesses. The band includes Midvale member Gene Nelson. They will play some old favorites for us to sing along as well as some original songs for special music.



Vacation Bible School August 8-11

This year's theme is Tree of Healing. For four evenings children and youth travel through stations learning the Bible through games, art, music and more. Each night also includes fellowship time. There is a family picnic time from 5:30-6:00pm and VBS activities from 6:00-8:00pm each night. Contact Brenda Goble with any questions or for more information - brendag@midvalelutheran.org or 608-238-7119.

Adult Bible School 2022: Friendship and Hospitality

There are two remaining Adult Bible School sessions for the summer.

August 24, Wednesday, 10:00am

Friends from the Past: Readings from *Hope Is the Thing*, with Eric James, Gary Hein and Debbie Fischer. This collection of essays and poems written by Wisconsinites was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in 2022. It contains reflections on perseverance and hope in the pandemic

September 1, Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm

A Thursday morning retreat at Holy Wisdom on "Advanced Friendship" facilitated by Ken Smith and Judy Nolde. The morning will be focused on reflection, conversation, group activities, and prayer attending to four things: being my own friend (finding inner acceptance and resolve), navigating difficult friendships (new wisdom, boundaries, and limits), the role of the stranger (gracious acceptance, compassionate assistance, and respectful appreciation), planetary friendship (making peace with the earth, its creatures, and creator). The retreat will begin at 9am and conclude with lunch at the monastery at noon. The group is limited to 20.



Choir director and director of children's music position openings

Midvale is seeking a director for its adult vocal choir and a director of its children's music ministry. The positions may be filled by a single qualified candidate or by two different candidates. A full position description is available on the church website on the Welcome to Midvale tab - and selecting Work at Midvale or by contacting the church office (608) 238-7119. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to info@midvalelutheran.org by August 7. Please share this announcement with anyone you know who might be qualified and interested.



Madison Area Pride Interfaith Service, August 18

All are welcome to the first ever interfaith service in Madison to kick off Magic Pride Festival weekend. The service will be at First Baptist Church, 518 N Franklin Ave., Madison at 6:30. Come at 5:00pm for a time of fellowship with food from the Holy Cow food truck, courtesy of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Queer-affirming community organizations. Masks are required during the service.



Pastor Ken Smith to lead a retreat for adults November 2-4

The retreat will be at Lutherdale, an ELCA camp with a newly built adult retreat center. The retreat, "Reframing Faith" is intended for adults 50 years and older. For more information or to register go to lutherdale.org or call 262-742-2352. Contact Pastor Ken with any questions.

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



Lutheran World Relief Kits

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits of Care are a reminder to families that even in the midst of crisis,

they are not alone. Lists of items needed, as well as bags to fill for school kits, are in the Gathering Space:

Personal Care Kits provide much-needed self-care and critical germ fighting tools.

Baby Care Kits help a baby get off to a good start in life with basic baby care supplies.

School Kits equip a child with the supplies they need to keep learning even in a crisis.

Completed kits should be brought to Midvale no later than August 17 to be included in this year's shipment. There will be a designated bin in the Gathering Space. Quilts and kits will be blessed in worship on August 20 and 21.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated. During VBS, participants will pack 75 school kits from previously donated items.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - an opportunity for you to share God's presence with those in transition

Midvale's Prayer Shawl Ministry is beginning anew. We would like to invite volunteers who would like to knit or crochet shawls. Here is your chance to see and experience how the Holy Spirit works in you. Prayer shawls are for those who are transitioning in their lives—a new mother, a person seeking a new direction in their career, a person experiencing loss, a relationship challenge, those with health issues, or a person looking for peace through meditation, etc. We also need yarn donations of acrylic, cotton, or any other hypoallergenic yarn. We can also provide prayer shawl patterns and suggest other online resources.

Giving a shawl conveys God's love and the prayers of our community to our recipients. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact, Kristi Holden (kristiholden7421@gmail.com) or Janet Sabatke (jgsabatke@gmail.com).



Lutheran World Relief Quilt Weekend - August 20-21

The quilts made at Midvale during the past year by our Lutheran

World Relief (LWR) Quilters will be displayed and blessed during worship. After worship, they will be boxed up and sent across the globe to people in need or displaced because of natural disasters, war, famine or civil unrest. These tangible expressions of God's love will make a life-changing difference for those who receive them. If you would like to join the quilters, you are welcome to do so! They meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of each month at 9:00am.

RIC Lutherans at Magic Pride Festival, August 21st



Madison's Magic Pride Festival will take place on Sunday, August 21,

from 1-6pm at Warner Park. The festival will include a music/entertainment stage, a large vendor area, games and activities for youth and families, food and beverages.

Our synod's Reconciling in Christ Team will represent our RIC churches with a booth to express our welcome and inclusion of members of the LGBTQIA+ community - as well as to share God's love with everyone! It would be great to have some representation from Midvale Community members at the synod booth. If you would like to volunteer by hanging out a while at the booth and chatting with festival-goers and other RIC Lutheran folks, please contact Laura Svaren at lauras@midvalelutheran.org. It's a fun time, and you'll meet wonderful people!

If you're not up to volunteering, you're still invited to come to the Pride Festival for an hour or two to enjoy the love shared at this event as well as the beautiful park setting. Make sure to stop by to say "hi" to the welcoming Lutherans at the synod booth!

MCLC Endowment Fund Application Deadline

Consider submitting a grant request to the MCLC Endowment Fund

Do you have a unique passion or interest that you feel can enhance the Church's work? Is there a gap in the service that the Church is currently providing to our members, the community or global missions? Are there improvements in our physical building or equipment that could better meet our members' needs and broaden the Church's missions? As we begin our year's final quarter, **we are welcoming grant requests through October 15, 2022. Application forms for grant requests are available through the church office or can be sent to you via email.**

Although most grant requests are submitted through a church committee, some past grant requests have been submitted by individuals. If you are interested in submitting a grant request and are not sure whether it should be approved by a church committee, feel free to reach out to one of the pastors or other members of the Endowment Committee with your questions. **Grant requests can be submitted to Pam Frey in the church office or by email to info@midvalelutheran.org.**

These three general areas guide the purpose of the Endowment Fund:

Ministry: visiting theologians, local and world mission support, health/healing ministry, congregational anniversary remembrances, campus ministry

Education: scholarships for academic or continuing education in religious studies, sponsorship of workshops/seminars or study programs, sponsorship of experiences that encourage personal growth in religion, sponsorship of a seminary chair

Facilities: special building projects and equipment purchases

What if my committee has a past grant request that is still outstanding?

This question is of particular relevance as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many projects being delayed or postponed. Funding for an Endowment Grant that has been approved in the past will carry over until the completion of the project.

Who should I contact with additional questions or if I want to make a gift to the Endowment Fund?

Please contact the church office at 608-238-7119 or info@midvalelutheran.org, or speak with one of the pastors or members of the Endowment Committee. Current members of the Endowment Committee are Derek Matzke, Anne Wuethrich, Stephanie Whalley, Jay Wians, Susan Knowles, Betsy Popelka Massnick and Randy Snell.

Memorials

Jane Lee Bainbridge

Pete and Lesley Johnson

Brenda Sischo

Sue and Bill Atwood

David and Rhoda Braunschweig

Mary Else

Rebecca Hagness

Allen and Lynn Jaeger

Sharon Kampen

Jon and Mary Lynn Langsdorf

Dennis and Gail Maki

Paul and Nancy McMahon

Pat Peterson

Midvale church building is now a weapon-free zone

At the June 2022 Congregational Council meeting, the Council voted unanimously to make the church a weapon-free zone. This resolution was brought to Council as part of efforts to make our church building, our community, and our world a safer place. This is another step forward that builds on the momentum towards ending gun violence in the Madison area through the Gun Safe Surrender and Turning Guns into Garden Tools events. New signage will be posted on all entry doors noting the space as a weapon-free zone and external groups who meet in our church building will be notified. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to members of the Congregational Council or the pastors.

Finding Ourselves

by Dylan Abraham

*Finding ourselves
Creates difficulty
Without Christ.*

Loving us,

Loving Him,

This man

From God,

Transforms souls,

As clay

Becomes pottery,

Molding lives,

Souls,

That we

Love one another.

*From His Gentle Touch: The Poems
by Dylan Abraham. Copyright ©
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SHARE

The Evolution of systemic racism class - register now

Six sessions will be co-taught by Midvale member Ben Kempinen, distinguished clinical professor emeritus, University of Wisconsin Law School, and Dr. Leanne Puglielli. Sessions will be Tuesdays from October 4 - November 8 by Zoom from 6:30-8:00pm. Participants will view history from new perspectives to better understand where we are today, how we got here, and our options for the future. To register or with questions, call or email Leanne: leanne.puglielli@gmail.com or 608-886-3737.

Red Cross blood drive at Midvale August 23



The West High School National Honor Society is coordinating a blood drive at Midvale in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 23 from 12:00pm - 5:00pm. Anyone is welcome to donate blood. Drop ins are welcome, but making an appointment is preferred. Go to redcrossblood.org and enter the code westhighschool to make an appointment.

Thank you for your regular offerings

Donations to support our regular ministry and mission make a difference in the lives of many who are touched by our ministry every day. Your gifts also are an expression of your faith and an offering of thanksgiving to God. There are several ways to make a gift:

- Give now to our Regular Giving Fund online by credit or debit card or automatic deduction from checking or savings account. Visit our website or use this QR code to access our online giving page.



- Mail a check to MCLC, 4329 Tokay Blvd. Madison, WI 53711

- Use your bank's online bill pay service to send a contribution - this is usually free and you don't even pay for postage.

In our prayers remember:

- † Hospitality as we welcome friends, visitors and guests.
- † Health, comfort and healing for: Julie Underwood (daughter of Linda Crane), Adrian Gutierrez (grandson of Bob & Carol Ostergren), Sue Miller, Lum Anne-Zina Ngwa (daughter of Ngwa Augustine), Akwa Stella Ngang (wife of Ngwa Augustine), Willie London Meadows (friend of Sandy Stallings), Bill Weiss (father of Becki Fiegel), Richard LaBrie, Jeff Leeder (brother of Randi Leeder), Louise Smoczynski (friend of the Ingham family), Tonya Pankov (friend of Karen Bogenschneider), Diane Baima and Yurii Potapenko, Kristen Stawicki (friend of Elizabeth Meier), Asher Lobato (cousin of Megan Benoy), Rosemary Barrientos-Irigoyen, and Nola Allen.
- † 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.

Midvale Church Calendar

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

August 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!"

8/1	† Noah Matzke	8/15	† Elena Nackers
8/2	† Cooper Hanson	8/17	† Calvin Matzke
8/5	† Amelia Whalley	8/19	† Jonas Carlson
8/8	† Rowen Leyen	8/21	† Leif Larson
8/9	† Willie Peery	8/23	† Clara Diercks
8/9	† Liam Perkins	8/23	† Greyson Doolittle
8/11	† Gavin Schultz	8/23	† Afton Oakland
8/12	† Aria Sanchez	8/25	† Adelle Morris
8/13	† Kellen Schultz	8/29	† Thomas Dean

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison, WI 53711

Telephone 608-238-7119

Email info@midvalelutheran.org

Website midvalelutheran.org

Office Hours 8:30 am-12:30 pm



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Dated Material



Pastor Blake shares about his 25 years as
a pastor inside this issue!



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Learn more about the upcoming
Interfaith Pride Service on page 3

Interfaith Pride Service

August 18, 2022