

# THE VALLEY BRIDGE



October 6, 2015

OCTOBER 11: 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

*Domestic Violence Awareness*

**Fellowship of Prayer: First Presbyterian Church of Ashby**

Matthew Zelig, Temporary Pastoral Leader

Rev. Douglas Dent, Moderator

Barb Dewey, Clerk of Session

Jim Risbrudt, Treasurer

Marcy Petersen, Shared Ministry Administrative Secretary

Kris Williams, Lori Risbrudt and Jane Rosenow, organists

Kim Bailey, Custodian

Prayers for those serving in the military and those especially in need in our community: Ronnie Moebius, Arlo Hanson, Peggy Lien, Dave Williams, Wally and Delores Bullis, Shelby Stonestrom, Marge Boren, Darrell Kilker, Winnie Thompson, Donna Boren, the Dickie family, the Kappahn family, Doris Olson and Linda Heinrich. For the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee in seeking a permanent pastor for our shared ministry. For those in our congregation with health challenges. We are blessed to have Matthew Zelig as our Temporary Pastoral Leader, and we are happy to welcome Matthew and Jess Zelig's first-born son, Luke Warren, who was born October 1.

Thank you for remembering us in your prayers.



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## AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

The first Wednesday of each month is Family Night Potluck at 5:30 in Geneva Hall at **Westminster Presbyterian Church of Worthington**.

The youth at **First Presbyterian Church of Willmar** are going on a hayride the afternoon of October 11. They'll be heading out to the Andersons' farm for a ride through the woods and neighboring fields, and come back to roast hot dogs and s'mores.

Changes at **First Presbyterian Church of Kasota**: Rev. Dennis Secrease was called to be pastor effective October 1. Dennis has been providing pulpit supply for the church over the past year and a half. Also, the "makeover" of the Fellowship Hall is complete. The 30-year-old carpet is gone, and the new carpet is in place. The walls were also painted.

**First Presbyterian Church of Lake Crystal** holds their annual "Feast at First" free dinner on Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 26, from 11:15 a.m.—12:30 p.m. "*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.*" —Hebrews 13:1-2

Every month, Michael Roys writes a folksy "Notes from the Manse" article in the **First Presbyterian Church of Winnebago** newsletter. This month's news includes news from the garden, including picking the last of the green beans, cucumbers and peppers, and canning the tomatoes for winter soups and goulashes.

The **First Presbyterian Church of Blue Earth** is finalizing a date to go and pack Buc Bags at the St. Paul Lutheran Church. Last year, a group from the church packed over 200 bags for the weekend food program.

Excerpt from in the **First Presbyterian Churches of Edgerton and Lismore** newsletter written by Tom Voigt:

God may be looking for you today. If you've lost your way, He longs to find you and bring you home. If you've been on the run, God wants you to know that you can stop. If you're tired, He longs to give you rest. If you're scared, He longs to calm you. If you've been hurt or wounded, God longs to bring healing to you. If you're lonely, He longs to surround you with His presence. There are no limits to the depth of God's love for you. Little Brieton's [a missing child] uncle Scott said this about the search for his nephew, "I don't think we'll ever stop looking." God won't stop either. He created you and has a special and unique purpose for your life. You matter very much to God .... That is why He is calling your name. He wants to bring you home. Will you answer?

*Dear Jesus, I've lost my way and I know it. I hear you calling my name and I want you to save me now. Thank you for loving me all the time. Thank you for never giving up on me. Thank you for rescuing me from my sin, my fear, my pain, my loneliness and the darkness around me. Place me on your shoulders and bring me home. Thank you Jesus! Amen.*

## THE WORD FROM RICK:

## “OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH”



The month of October, in the midst of the fall harvest, is a good time for all of us to take a moment to reflect on, and give thanks for, the ministries of the pastors and pastoral leaders in our midst.

In Minnesota Valleys, we are blessed with a diversity of pastoral leaders. We have ordained pastors (teaching elders) of Presbyterian, UCC, and Lutheran heritage; ruling elders commissioned to serve specific congregations; an ELCA vicar; two students completing preparation for ministry in two different denominations; and, others who serve our congregations. These pastoral leaders faithfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ with us through worship, study, pastoral care, and services. They are tireless servants who are there for us, even during the oddest hours of the night. They are our “stretcher-bearers,” those who carry us to Christ (Mark 2:1-12), when we struggle and are too worn out to carry ourselves.

Our pastoral leaders are faithful people who have the best interests of our congregations and ministries fully in sight. They encourage us, empower us, inspire us, and yes, sometimes aggravate us. They don’t always see eye to eye with us, but even when they aren’t on the same page with us or don’t do what we think they should do, they do have our back. They aren’t perfect, yet neither are we, and we sometimes forget that.

Most importantly, our pastoral leaders are every day seeking to be faithful to their call to serve Jesus Christ and calling us to do the same. I would encourage our congregations during this month of October to show signs of appreciation and be in serious prayer for our pastoral leaders – not just those who serve your congregation, but all who serve the church of Jesus Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. Our friends in Nebraska remind us that the Upper Room has posted a nice one-page guide to daily scripture reading and prayer for Pastors Appreciation Month (October). You can find the calendar of scriptures at the following link:

<http://books.upperroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Prayers-Clergy-Appreciation-Month.pdf>

To all of our pastoral leaders: thank you for your ministry among us. You are a blessing to all of us in so many ways.

Grace and Peace,

*Rick*

## 2016 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM . . .



During the week of July 19-23, 2016, approximately 6000 Presbyterian Youth and their leaders will gather on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, for the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

Held every three years, this event brings youth together for one of those “once in a lifetime experiences” designed to help young people celebrate their faith and strengthen their relationships with one another and with their church.

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys wants to be a big presence at Purdue. A team of folks - Jill Boeyink (Willmar), Mark Giese (St Cloud), Jordan Schiefert (Fergus Falls), Mark Ford (Brainerd), Pam Prouty (Redwood Falls), and Rick Carus (Willmar) - has begun working to prepare for our delegation. The registration process begins in late November as we ask congregations to tell us how many kids they intend to send. Actual registration begins in January. The cost will be finalized by the end of October. We expect it to be about \$600/person, including transportation. Churches are encouraged to share the cost with the families of their young people, so that this event will be possible for as many young people as possible!

Watch for a letter to come to congregation in the next ten days. It will contain many more details.

## GATHERING OF MISSION LEADERS TO TAKE PLACE IN KANSAS CITY IN NOVEMBER



Local, regional and international mission leaders will be able to connect and learn from each other at a gathering of mission leaders November 19-21 at the Heartland Conference Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Called “Mission Magnified,” the conference format will be retreat-style, with small group sessions complimenting plenary workshops. Worship will be included throughout. Details can be found at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/mission-magnified/>

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY:

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAINT JAMES

An experienced, intentional Interim Pastor is being sought for the First Presbyterian Church of Saint James. The position description has been created and a Ministry Information Form (MIF) - ID Number 03802.AC - is in the process of being posted to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Church Leadership Connection. If you, or someone you know would be a good fit for this opportunity, please check out the MIF on line, or contact Craig Christiansen at [cchristiansen@mchsi.com](mailto:cchristiansen@mchsi.com).

## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

October 31 (Saturday) – Fall Presbytery Meeting at Hope Church in Spicer

November 30 (Monday) – Advent Open House and Hanging of the Greens at the Presbytery Office

February 6 (Saturday) – Winter Presbytery Meeting

February 29 – March 2 (Monday – Wednesday) – Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in San Antonio, Texas – Information on line at [www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)

## TECHNOLOGY GRANTS AVAILABLE

*Submitted by Peter Mann*

Congregational Resources and Development (CRD) Committee of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery has funds available for technology upgrades at your church. Technology Grants can be used to update office computers, printers, telephone systems, AV, PowerPoint equipment, and other technologies. Grant request forms can be secured by contacting the presbytery office which supplies the form and directs the request. The grant request form can also be found at <http://www.minnesotavalleys.org/forms.html>

How it works: Grants will be honored UP TO \$500 and will be UP TO 50% of the overall project expense. For example, on an \$850 project, CRD would pay \$425, if approved. Once approved, receipts must be submitted to Virginia Molitor. Your church can receive one Technology Grant per calendar year.

## DREAM GRANTS

**NEW GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE** through the General Assembly to facilitate new ministries (not new worshipping communities – that is a separate program). Titled DREAM Grants (Developmental, Risky, Experimental, Adaptive Mission), these one-time grants of up to \$10,000 are available to provide assistance with start-up costs for new ministry initiatives. Applicants can be churches or mid-councils. For the second application window, **applications are due at the synod office by November 15, 2015.** Contact the presbytery office for an application.

## PLANNING CALENDARS

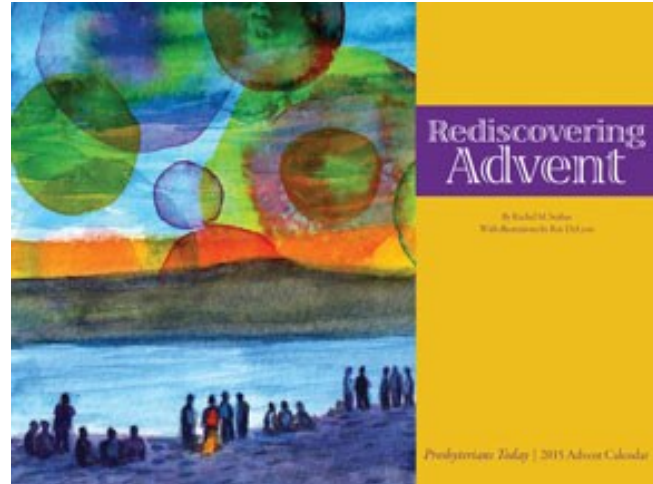
The presbytery office still has a small number of 2015-2016 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for the low purchase price of \$8 each. Call or email Virginia with your order.



## REDISCOVERING ADVENT

For some people, Advent is little more than a chocolaty countdown to Christmas. For others, the promises and stories of Advent have become so familiar that they've lost some of their mystery and power.

Rachel Srubas—pastor, spiritual director, and author—has put together a collection of daily poetic reflections and prayers to reawaken the beauty and spirituality of Advent. Roy DeLeon's vivid watercolors add to the contemplative power of this year's Advent Calendar.



Perfect for congregations, families, and individuals, *Rediscovering Advent* provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Advent. Your congregation is invited to order these Advent Calendars at \$1.50 per copy through the presbytery office. The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 3. Please call or email Karen at the presbytery office: 320-235-7910 or [karen@minnesotavalleys.org](mailto:karen@minnesotavalleys.org).

## MINNESOTA VALLEYS PASTOR COMPETES AT CAMP RIPLEY

Cory Germain, former pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Pipestone, shared the following picture and story with us. The Minnesota National Guard conducted the Best UMT Competition at Camp Ripley Training Center on August 10th, 2015, incorporating tactical tasks to include map reading, convoy operations, first aid, and medical evaluation, along with their religious support responsibilities. The winning team of Chaplain (CPT) Cory Germain [second person from left] and SPC Jared Weidner from the 682nd Engineer Battalion was recognized by GEN Frank Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau, and MG Richard Nash, Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. CH Germain and SPC Weidner will deploy to Kuwait this fall with the 682nd EN BN in continuing support of Operation Enduring Freedom.





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**BOARD CONNECTIONS**

## ANNUAL ENROLLMENT: TIME TO CHECK YOUR BENEFITS COVERAGE

Board of Pensions Annual enrollment, **now through November 13**, is your chance to review, choose, and change your benefits coverage. Check your medical coverage level, enroll for or change your dental coverage, and apply for or make changes to, supplemental death benefits.

Annual enrollment is the only time you can enroll for or make changes to these benefits unless you experience a qualifying life event during the year (such as marriage or the birth of a child).

To review your current benefits quickly and securely, log on to [Benefits Connect](#), the Board's website for personalized benefits information. You can also enroll for dental benefits and apply for supplemental death benefits through Benefits Connect.

Annual enrollment is also a good time to review your savings and investments in the Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (RSP) to make sure you are on track for a secure retirement.

Look for the annual enrollment postcard in your mail soon, and visit [pensions.org/annualenrollment](http://pensions.org/annualenrollment) for additional information.

## HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE: A YOUTH STUDY FOR ADVENT

by Sue Washburn. Four-Session Downloadable Youth Study  
Pack \*\$18.00 ([Free with Subscription](#))

Designed for high school youth, "[Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love: A Youth Study for Advent](#)" is a brand-new, four-session study that helps teens live their faith. In each session, teens will look at each one of the four themes—hope, peace, joy, and love—through the lens of epistles (or letters). Together they will discover that the concepts are more than nice feelings, but a call to action.

Written by Rev. Sue Washburn, each week includes a Participant's Handout and a Leader's Guide with prayers, activities, and more!

[Leaders Guide](#)    [Handout Preview](#)



## CALENDAR

Friday, October 9: Virginia on vacation

Sunday, October 11–Tuesday, October 13: Rick & Pam attend Polity Conference in Portland

Thursday, October 15: Presbytery packet deadline; 9:00 Budget & Finance conference call; 10:00 Committee on Ministry meets at the presbytery office

Friday, October 16: 10:00 Occidente Partnership conference call

Monday, October 19: Presbytery packet posted to website for October 31 presbytery meeting



## MARK 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.” ’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

