

THE VOICE OF GALILEE

DECEMBER 2025

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Faith Forming Four Week Advent Prayers

With or without greenery, four candles in a line or square welcomes your praying! Use blue or whatever jewel colors you wish to light candles, so you may center your vision on praying for the coming light of the Jesus child. His Spirit offers these gifts and Christian disciplines of hope, peace, joy, and love that ground us in our Baptism to live as followers of Christ.

Biblical Verse & Prayer for Lighting 1st candle - HOPE:

Book of Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. "Holy and Triune God, we ask for your presence to fill our hearts and homes. May the hope of the coming Lord call us to bear this gracious light to everyone. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Hymn Verse & Prayer for Lighting 2nd candle - PEACE:

ELW #256 Comfort, Comfort, Now My People. God will reign in peace forever. "Reigning God, surround conflict and war with your promised peace in our world. Help us live as peacemakers in our relationships and communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Hymn Verse & Prayer for Lighting 3rd candle - JOY:

ELW #253 He Came Down. Jesus came down that we may have joy! "Gracious God, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Lead us to invite all to discover this joy as we respond to any in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Gospel Verse & Prayer for Lighting 4th candle - LOVE:

Gospel of Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all our heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.' "Holy God, may all know us by your love, inspiring us to love one another as you have loved us. Guide us into loving action by our words and deeds. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

We welcome the coming Christ child in the seasons of Light! Interim Pastor Kelly

Advent lights the way; Christmas welcomes light, while Epiphany is light for the world; representing the revealed Christ who is an ongoing presence of light in our baptized lives. Advent worship begins Sunday, Nov. 30 (the date for the scheduled call vote). May the weekly Advent seasonal prayers light the way of Christ in your daily living.

Reminisces, Remembering the Light of Lord, Alighting the Way

This 65th anniversary year at Galilee permitted us to consider the seven purposes of a congregation during fellowship after worship. In living our baptism, we give ourselves, possessions, and time to the purposes of the congregation which are really nine (after the St. Paul synod hosted a Constitution Review) but for the anniversary campaign, we consolidated them into seven Sundays to fit the ministries Galilee engages.

Yet, all of the Galilee 65th anniversary reminisces are answering the question: How have we been involved in the nine purposes of the congregation, worship, pastoral care, living out our baptism, teaching the Word, witness to all people, meeting human needs with justice and peace, motivate for financial giving, interdependent relationships with congregations, the Saint Paul Area Synod, and ELCA churchwide, and participate in ecumenical relationships?

- - continued on pg. 4

AROUND OUR CHURCH

YOUNG AT HEART - Sharell Babin



Since there are five Tuesdays in December, as well as the Christmas holiday, our meeting dates will be the third and fifth Tuesdays; that is Dec. 16 and 30. Please note the date change for this month, then it's back to our regular dates in January.

On December 16 we will have a "gender neutral" wrapped gift exchange (\$10 value), while enjoying our potluck luncheon. See you in Galilee's library at 12:15.

If you have any questions, please call Karen at 651-488-9074 or Sharell at 651-746-9074. We invite you to join us for Young at Heart potluck and socialization.

We wish you a blessed Christmas season.

A MEMBER'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

To celebrate JoAnn Lano's birthday, her daughter surprised her with a cruise to the Eastern Seaboard of New England. JoAnn describes her trip:

"Prior to the cruise we stayed in New York City at the Plaza Hotel for two days. Central Park was across the street. Our first excursion was a tour of The Breakers, one of the Vanderbilt Mansions in Newport, RI. Another excursion stop was Boston, MA, where we visited Independence Hall and the Old North Church. We also visited and explored the Kennedy Presidential Library. We toured Portland, ME and enjoyed a fabulous seafood dinner. Our last stop was Halifax, Nova Scotia, a lovely town and the people were so friendly and welcomed us with open arms."

GALILADIES - ARDIS HASLACH

November 20, GaliLadies met for a Friends-Giving day. A week before Thanksgiving. We are thankful. What a beautiful amount of food. We had everything on the table you would want for the big day. Some ladies were planning to go out for thanksgiving dinner so we thought we'd put on a big home cooked turkey dinner meal. Everything was delicious.

We have 160 Christmas cards signed and ready to be delivered to Harmony Gardens Care Center. (Thank you everyone for the cards you gave our group) We are also sending cards to Galilee's homebound.



On November 10th Judy and her family took a trip to Two Harbors to take part in the celebration of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. They had a service for the 29 members that were lost. Their names were read and a bell rung for each name.

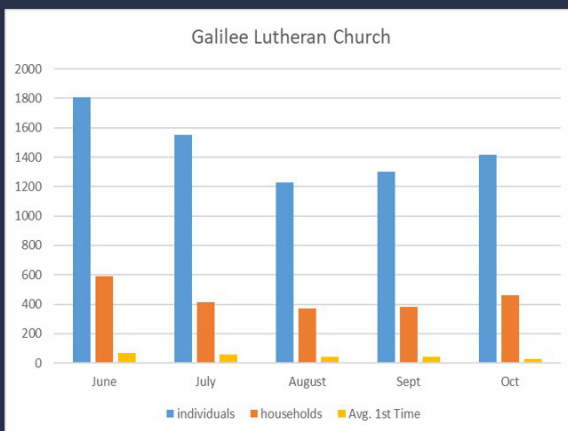
The light in Split Rock lighthouse was lit on this day to commemorate the men lost on this voyage. Anyone who wants to see the service can find it on YouTube: type "Edmund Fitzgerald memorial service".

December 18th is the GaliLadies Christmas party. Each person is to bring a dish to share. We will have gift exchange of \$10.00, and play Christmas with the Right Family \$2.00 worth of pennies for a game. If anyone would like to join in our Christmas party please come.

WAY TO GO GALILEE!

A new record of 14,530 lbs of food distributed in a single day.

Free Farmers Market @ Galilee Lutheran Church



Galilee 2025	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
individuals	1806	1553	1227	1303	1417
households	589	411	374	380	460
pounds	12608	11166	9416	12480	14530
Avg. 1st Time	70%	56%	44%	41%	28%

AROUND OUR CHURCH

ROOF REPAIR

The roof over the Fellowship Hall closet has been fixed. This section of the roof has been leaking for several years. We decided the best thing to do was to have roofers come in and find out what was causing the leak. They brought in a structural engineer, and he determined that the bricks on the roof (which were protecting the former skylight) were the culprit.

The crew replaced the soaked insulation and took out all of the bricks. Several pictures of the completed roof will be in the January VOICE.

Property Team

ROSEVILLE AREA SCHOOLS SENDS GRATITUDE!

Superintendent Jenny Loeck sent Galilee a very gracious "Thanks!" for Galilee's contribution of \$500 on the November Food Drive.

This school district serves over 53,000 learners, and our donations truly made a difference for families in need.

Please see the main bulletin board for Superintendent's letter.



Drop off gently used or new winter clothing (hats, gloves, scarves, jackets, boots) at the St. Paul Chamber ahead of Winter Warm Up or bring them directly to the event on Dec. 13. Reach out to maichee@stpaulchamber.com with questions.

Winter Warm-Up

Saturday, December 13, 2025
1 - 3 p.m.

Maplewood Corner of Rice & Larpenteur Ave

RICE & LARPEnteUR

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

On November 13th the Galilee Church Council met with the Call Committee and received their report regarding the choice of a candidate for a new pastor. After review and discussion, the Council voted unanimously to accept the chosen candidate, Pastor Jacqueline Belzer. A brief Congregational meeting has been scheduled for November 30th, following worship, for the confirming vote. All adult members of the congregation are asked to **please come to this important meeting** to cast your vote.

If you have any questions, please contact Elen Swenson, Joyce Solberg regarding this meeting.

Elen Swenson
Council President

THE GALILEE COUNCIL GIVES THANKS FOR THE COMMITTED TIME AND PRAYERS OF THE GALILEE CALL COMMITTEE:

Joyce Solberg, Chairperson
Sandy Biermeier
Sandy Altendorfer
Miriam Peterson
Karita Wienke
Abe Watson
CarolAnn Hart
Jim Zrust

AROUND OUR CHURCH

GALILEE'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY - REMINISCING.....

Steve & Karen Groebner

When we came to Galilee in the late 70's we were met by Ruth Knapp. She, and everyone else, were so welcoming. Today we feel that Galilee's congregation carries on the same warmth and love.



Jo Ann French

I married into Galilee in 1984. My husband, Howard, attended worship services here since he moved to Minnesota that year. For me, the music has always been important, and I fondly remember my many years as Galilee's Music Director, especially when the choir participated in several "Big Productions".

The pandemic required special tasks, such as recording worship services. Ron Peterson did a wonderful job with the technical part of our special pandemic worship, including setting up the equipment so that people could worship in their cars. Since the organ was not available outdoors, I had a chance to lead the singing with my guitar and a microphone.

These days I appreciate the worship services, and each Sunday I leave with a renewed strength of faith in God and in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Elen Swenson

I found Galilee in the Fall of 1989, and I joined one year later. Paul and I were married at Galilee in October, 1991. Our daughter, Joanna, was baptized here in October 1992, and she was also confirmed at Galilee. All blessings!!

Larry Biermeier

I started my church life in Sunday School when I was four or five years old. We lived in South St. Paul and went to Concordia Church, Missouri Synod, which was built across the street from us in 1959. I was confirmed there and baptized into the Lutheran faith at 15 years of age. My father Joseph, at age 64, also joined the Lutheran faith with me! In 1962 I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served until 1965. I "left" the church for many years, but returned in 1996 and have stayed ever since. I joined Galilee in 2018. One concern I share: Not many young people are following God's path.

Season of Light -- - from pg. 1

I would propose that we have been fully involved in more moments than you can name. Our witness is to name some ways we bear the light of Christ as a congregation with nine purposes. We need the Christian community embedded in a congregation to remember how we share together bearing the light of Christ! Each remembrance is about a moment in time, some ordinary and some special, accompanied by the presence and power of our God whose Spirit lifts us to live as Christ light bearing people! Thoughtfully consider your own reminiscences especially how they lifted you in living as you are called, a baptized Christian looking for Christ light and living in this Triune never failing loving light!

Galilee End of the Year Financial Appeal: Continuing to Light the Way

During our weekly worship, we never close it; we are sent from worship, a movement from death to life, from fear to courage, from abandonment to light. We are hoping to receive your financial gifts that serve the light-leading mission of our Triune God at Galilee, whether they are cash donations, memorials, stocks, bonds, and/or required minimum distributions. Your end of the year generosity will accompany Galilee in continuing to proclaim the ministry of light made known in Christ Jesus. As baptized Christians, we live in Christ's light, remembering that this is the way God shines! May we share all that we have been granted to follow this loving way.

AROUND OUR CHURCH



ENJOYABLE EVENING CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Mark your calendars for Monday, Dec. 15th when the Roseville Community Band will share beautiful holiday music for us. Feel free to dress in anything "Christmas-y".....from your best attire to your ugliest sweater!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

October: 2025 = 141

2024 = 151

Jan - Oct: 2025 = 1,796

2024 = 1,818

SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, 12/15 - 7pm Enjoyable Evening concert

Wednesday, 12/24 - 4pm Christmas Eve service

Outreach Team

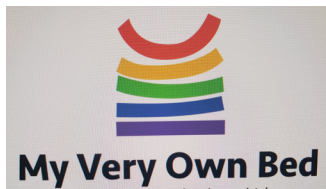
Outreach has decided to have our Christmas project this year be our continued support of **My Very Own Bed** located in NE Minneapolis. They buy bed frames and mattresses with donation money. Then people like us donate new sheets, blankets, pillows, protectors, and stuffed animals. Most of the children and young people are coming out of homelessness so they are often sleeping on the floor, a couch or an air mattress. They really do not have beds of their own! After getting one, the effects are life-changing. They sleep better and even do better in school. Children are recommended by schools or social service groups.

We will collect the following new items through Sunday, January 5:

- twin sheet sets with a pillowcase
- pillows and pillow protectors
- twin mattress protectors
- twin blankets or comforters
- smaller sized stuffed animals

If you prefer giving money, you may write a check to Galilee Outreach or give cash to Miriam Peterson.

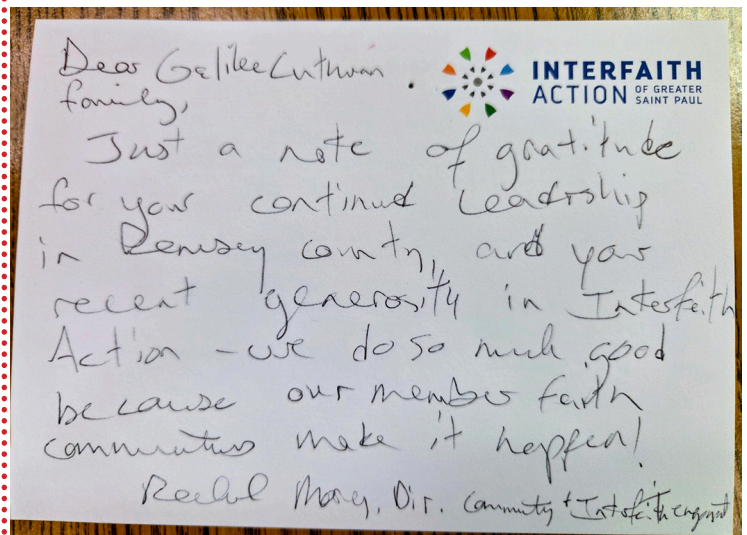
Thank you for helping!



Interfaith Action of St. Paul

Interfaith Action provides shelter for families, free food and clothing, tutoring and job coaching, as well as free legal assistance.

learn more at: interfaithaction.org



WORSHIP & EDUCATION

Scripture Lessons

DECEMBER 7

2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 14

3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 21

4th Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 28

First Sunday of Christmas
Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Prayer Requests

Homebound:

Janet Christensen
Kitty Fisch
Bill Friberg
Edith Londroche
David Shores
Larry Sims (spouse
Carolyn Brase-Koehler)

Family/Members/Friends:

Shawn Altendorfer
Janis Behrens
Larry Biermeier
Adrian Davis
Nijah Davis
Leroy Erickson
Mary Lanoux
Karen Murphy
Nancy Seefert-Tomczyk
Scott Solberg
Randall Strand
Nick Tomczyk
Jeanette Uran
Michele Virginia
Kathleen Voss
Nula Watson
Bill Zrust

Missions/Ministry:

Rice Street Gardens
MN Faith Chinese Lutheran
Balali & Uhominyi in Iringa

December Birthdays

Angie Bergman	12/3
Jim Zrust	12/5
Lennox O'Keefe	12/5
Raymond Nottidge	12/6
Liana Taylor	12/7
Patricia Craft	12/8
Parker Robert Osterman	12/10
Dick Haslach	12/11
Lou Wana Osterman	12/16
James Hart	12/18
Cameron Anderson	12/18
Bob Schmidt	12/28
Leesa Matthews	12/28



December Lectors

Dec 7	CarolAnn Hart
Dec 14	JoAnn French
Dec 21	Ron Peterson
Dec 24	Pat Craft (Wed. 4pm)
Dec 28	Abe Watson

December Ushers

Dec 7	Hart/Watson
Dec 14	Solbergs
Dec 21	Petersons
Dec 24	Zrust/Watson (Wed. 4pm)
Dec 28	Groeblers

December Communion


Dec 7	Joyce Solberg
Dec 14	Ron Peterson
Dec 21	Barb Strenge
Dec 24	Elen Swenson (Wed. 4pm)
Dec 28	

Refreshments (two may provide)

Dec 7	TBD
Dec 14	TBD
Dec 21	TBD
Dec 24	TBD
Dec 28	TBD



DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	2 10am Donut Group 7pm Worship & Music Team (zoom mtg)	3 6pm Bells rehearsal	4	5	6 9a-12p Ham Radio
7 9a Prayers for Healing 9:30a Galilee Worship Adult Faith forum 10a MFCLC choir 11a MFCLC worship	8 12pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	9 10am Donut Group 7pm Alley 19 clowns	10 1pm Villa Park holy communion 6pm Bells rehearsal	11 6:30pm Council mtg	12	13 12-3p scheduled event (Darla)
14 9:30a Galilee Worship Adult Faith forum 10a MFCLC Choir 11a MFCLC Worship	15 8a-3p Hand In Hand use prk lot 12pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew 7p Rsvl Band concert	16 10a Donut Group 12:15p YAH	17 6pm Bells rehearsal	18 8a-3p Hand In Hand use prk lot 12p GaliLadies	19	20
21 9:30a Galilee Worship Adult Faith forum 10a MFCLC Choir 11a MFCLC Worship	22 12pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	23	24 Christmas Eve worship - 4pm Interim Pastor Kelly's last worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 OFFICE CLOSED Pastor Kelly vacation - - - - -	27
28 9:30a Galilee Worship Adult Faith forum 10a MFCLC Choir 11a MFCLC Worship --- vacation - - - - -	29	30 12:15p YAH	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE - - - - -			

***A Blessed Christmas
and Joyous New Year
to you & yours.
Galilee Council and Staff***

Adult Faith Forums

Dec 7 - Becky Palmgren, ELCA Financial Planner

Dec 14 - Introduce Congregation Mission Statement building

Dec 21 - Ministry Planning: Position Descriptions

Dec 28 - No Adult Forum; Pastor Thomas Tsen presiding & preaching at worship

GALILEE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025

145 McCarrons Blvd N (at Rice Street)
Roseville, MN 55113-6923

office.galilee@gmail.com

www.galileelutheranelca.com

Phone: 651-488-6769

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 A.M.

OFFICE HOURS: M, W, F 9AM-1PM

2025 Congregational Council

Elen Swenson, President
Joyce Solberg, Vice President
Ron Peterson, Secretary
CarolAnn Hart
Joan Jarombek
Cherie Garrod
Larry Biermeier
Darla Nelson
Barb Streng, Treasurer
Miriam Peterson, Financial Secretary
Interim Pastor Sharon Kelly

Staff

Interim Pastor: Sharon Kelly
skelly.galilee@gmail.com Cell 651.230.3062

Administrative Assistant: Sue Malenick

Music Director: Paul Swenson Cell 651-206-6634

Organists: Raymond Nottidge & Tim Rand

Bells of Galilee: Cynthia Erickson
cynthia.erickson@minnmicro.com

VOICE articles must be received by the
15th of each month. To submit articles for
publication in the VOICE or to receive the
VOICE newsletter by e-mail, please contact
the church office at:
office.galilee@gmail.com.

Reminder:

Galilee is a fragrance-free church.
Some people have an allergy to
fragrance which affect their health.
Thank you.

GALILEE'S MISSION STATEMENT

To gather people together to hear the story of
God's love in Jesus Christ, to be nurtured in faith
and knowledge, and to share the Good News
through word and deed.

HOMEBOUND/CARE CENTER MEMBERS*

Bill Friberg, Maplewood Care Ctr, 1900 Sherren Ave E,
Maplewood 55109

Edith Londroche, Suite Living Senior Care, 938 S Robert St,
W St Paul 55118

Kitty Fisch, David Shores, New Perspectives Senior Living,
2750 N Victoria St, Roseville 55113

Karen Murphy, Lyngblomsten apt, #218, 1455 Almond Ave,
St Paul 55108

Janet Christensen, 5359 395th St, North Branch, MN 55056
(Trinity Lutheran Church)

*(All these members granted permission to be in our newsletter.)

Please send a greeting card, or a 'thinking of you' note.

We give thanks for these intercessors, our Galilee Prayer Team, praying for
our community and the world: Jackie Nerud, Shari Sailer, Elen Swenson,
Karen Groebner, Joyce Solberg, Deb Roehler, Pat Craft