

THE VOICE OF GALILEE

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Happy New Year 2026!

Today marks the official start of my journey as your new pastor at Galilee Lutheran Church. I want to let you know that I'm very excited to serve you and our community being the light of Jesus Christ wherever we go.

I remember the first day I came to worship with you as an interim pastor for a couple of months while Pastor Nelson was on sabbatical to take care of her parents. After several months, Pastor Nelson resigned from her position. So, Galilee organized a call committee to decide on their new settled pastor to walk together in the light of God! After several interviews, reflections, and discussions among the call committee, they made the final decision.

January is a busy time for congregations as they prepare reports, budgets, pastor reports, and ministries. The early days of January are a wonderful time to look back—and to look ahead. I encourage you to take time to reflect on your past year, recalling both the hard times and the good times. Now look back again; try to see God in those memories. Remember that God has been close beside you through every step. God's strength and comfort have made tough days bearable. God's presence in your times of joy has made everything brighter. The future that stretches before us stretches all the way into eternity, and we are reminded at every turn that "God never leaves us or forsakes us." (Deut. 31:6 & Heb. 13:5b) God is the Companion who will never leave us. He is the Guide who knows every step of the way ahead.

In this new year, we will spend considerable time looking back, remembering God's faithfulness to this congregation and its people over the past 60+ years. We will also invite God's Spirit to continue to serve as our Guide, our Strength, and our Comfort as we live into this future without end. Psalm 48:14 declares, "For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end." Praying that God would always brighten the path before us.

I look forward to serving you and walking alongside you on this amazing journey God has divinely put before us. I am blessed to serve as your Pastor and know that God has great things in store for Galilee Lutheran Church. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time!

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Jacqueline Belzer

AROUND OUR CHURCH

GALILEE & MINNESOTA FAITH LUTHERAN OFFER A BIG "THANK YOU" TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR SHARED SERVICE SUCH A SUCCESS!! AND THANKS FOR THOSE WHO BROUGHT FOOD TO SHARE. OUR POTLUCK WAS DELICIOUS.



GALILADIES

CHANGES TO BIBLE STUDY

Starting in January Bible Study will now be on Wednesdays at 11am.

The first Bible Study will be on January 7th with Pastor Belzer.

Pastor Belzer's day off is Mondays, which is why the day and time for Bible Study has changed.

See you in January!

December 18th at GaliLadies we had our Christmas party. There were six at the party, and we enjoyed a table full of delicious foods. We played a game "The Right Family" with our gift exchange....so fun; lots of laughs! After eating and exchanging gifts we played "Penny Drop", a game with dice and a little house. No one lost many pennies :-)

Marlene was in Oregon visiting her son in Medford. Kathleen's been under the weather. We missed them both.

We all left the party early to head home, as an ice storm had started. Yes, 'tis the season to chip away on our cars!

Best wishes for 2026.



DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

A special Congregational Meeting took place on November 30 and by unanimous vote the Congregation selected a new pastor, Pastor Jacqueline Belzer, who will begin her ministry on the 1st of January 2026. Pastor Belzer will be presiding and preaching at her first service on January 4th. The Synod will conduct Pastor Belzer's Installation Ceremony during the church service on January 18th.

The December meeting of the Galilee Church Council took place on December 11th and included a potluck. Plans were consolidated for the budget for 2026 and the Annual Congregational Meeting to take place January 25th, 2026.

Due to the larger snowfalls so far this winter, a better snow shovel and a new ice chipper have been donated to the church for sidewalk snow removal.

The January Council meeting will be held on the 8th at 6:30pm.

Elen Swenson, Council President

***Thank you for beautifying the
sanctuary with poinsettias
during the 2025 Christmas season***



*Sharell Babin in memory of loved ones and in honor of family
Barb Bernstein in memory of my grandparents Edwin and Gloria Bernstein
Cynthia Reimers Erickson in honor of my 98 year old mom, Viola
Bill Friberg and JoAnn Lano in memory of all those who have gone before
Cherie Garrod and Randall Strand in memory of our parents Russell and Nila Garrod and
Harley and Arlys Strand
Lorrie Hayne in memory of Dan Hayne, Bea and Clark Folkenson, and in honor of family
Caroline Herman in honor of my brother Arnold Evenson
Gloria Johnson in honor of my Family
Mary Lanoux in memory of Louis Lanoux, Henry and Margaret Zrust, and Violes and Frieda
Lanoux in honor of my Family
Leesa Matthews in honor of Cherie and Randall, Gary and Cyndy
Darla Nelson in memory of Cecil and Arlene Nelson
Miriam and Ron Peterson in honor of our Family, and Our Galilee Family
Paul and Elen Swenson in memory of Roy, Kathleen, Kitty, and James Merrill
Karita Wienke in memory of loved ones*

Please bring your donated poinsettias home to enjoy.

AROUND OUR CHURCH

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER:

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the New Year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever - the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

If you have been noticing differences with the words of Scripture verses in the pre-printed Sunday bulletin compared to what is heard from the lectern/pulpit Bible, then you are correct! The lectern/pulpit Bible is the 1989 New Revised Standard Version translation (NRSV). Before and since 1989 there have been discoveries of historical significance and witness of ancient manuscripts. These documents with further research study expanded the insight and greater understanding of the writings and cultures that produced the NRSV. This expansion has become the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) translation which is the Biblical/Scriptural content of the weekly pre-printed Sunday bulletin. The NRSVue translation has been lauded for increased readability, accessibility, and inclusivity. A new lectern Bible will be needed.



A BLESSING FOR GALILEE EMPLOYEES & VOLUNTEERS

This blessing knows you worship in the shadows of setup and cleanup, in the milliseconds between tasks and mental notes made for next year.

You know magic in the fullness of what you plan and what falls apart, in the sights and sounds too beautiful to be anything but God's own doing.

The miracle is for you too, Beloved. There is faithfulness in letting go and trusting that Christ will be born, no matter what you do or leave undone.

From "Ordinary Blessings for the Christmas Season: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations"

By Meta Herrick Carlson



Thank you Terry and Steve for working on the big tree and figuring out all of the connections for the lights.

On the sanctuary tree Steve has a very detailed diagram of which section of light plugs connects with the next section.

Steve had already put up the new tree in the Narthex, then Darla and CarolAnn "fluffed it up" a bit and re-arranged chairs.

Thank you Terry, Steve, Darla, CarolAnn and Altar Guild for tree decorating. Fabulous job!

AROUND OUR CHURCH

ROOF REPAIR COMPLETED!!

The leaks in Fellowship Hall closet were created by our brick extension. This extension was protecting the skylight, which was removed several years ago.

The roofers took out the brick extension, peeled back a portion of the roof, and then replaced the insulation (which was soaked from all the rain over time.) The total cost \$29,333.00, paid for from our North Emanuel Legacy Fund.

Before repairs



After repairs



YOUNG AT HEART

Food was shared, gifts were exchanged, and card games were played. We missed Abe (who was home supervising a bathroom remodel). December birthdays were celebrated for LouWanna and Jim. For the Christmas gift exchange, we all sat around a large table and passed a gift either to our right or left, as indicated in a story being read to us.



Each of us wish you a happy and healthy New Year, and if you find you have some free time we would love to have you join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 12:15pm for food and fun.

We are meeting again on December 30th then in January we are meeting in the library on the 13th and 27th. If you have any questions, call Karen at 651.488.9074 - or - Sharell at 651.746.9074.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



WORSHIP & EDUCATION

Scripture Lessons

JANUARY 4

Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:[1-9]10-18

JANUARY 11

Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

JANUARY 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

JANUARY 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1,4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

January Sunday Events

Jan. 4 Welcome Pastor Belzer
her first service at Galilee

Jan. 11 TBD

Jan. 18 Galilee's Budget
Meeting for 2026

Jan. 25 Galilee's annual
congregational meeting.

Prayer Requests

Homebound:

Janet Christensen

Bill Friberg

Edith Londroche

David Shores

Larry Sims

Family/Members/Friends:

Shawn Altendorfer

Sanny Anderson

Janis Behrens

Larry Biermeier

Adrian Davis

Nijah Davis

Mary Jo Fitzgerald

Bonnie Fuller

Mary Lanoux

Ed Linner

Dave Macklin

Vangie Schroeder

Nancy Seefert-Tomczyk

Randall Strand

Nick Tomczyk

Jeanette Uran

Michelle Virginia

Kathleen Voss

Nula Watson

Bill Zrust

Missions/Ministry:

Rice Street Gardens

MN Faith Chinese Lutheran Church

Balali & Uhominyi in Iringa, Tanzania



January Birthdays

Abraham Watson 1/7

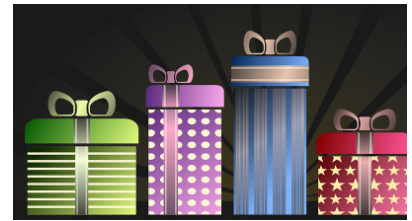
Gloria Johnson 1/18

Jeremy Brown 1/19

Terry Londroche 1/23

Joy Brown 1/26

Judy McLean 1/30



January Lectors

Jan 4 Barb Streng

Jan 11 Lori O'Keefe

Jan 18 Terry O'Keefe

Jan 25 Ruth Hartman

January Ushers

Jan 4 Groebners

Jan 11 O'Keefes

Jan 18 Hart & Groebner

Jan 25 Zrust & Watson

January Communion

Jan 4 Larry Biermeier

Jan 11 Ron Peterson

Jan 18 Darla Nelson

Jan 25 Joan Jarombek

January Refreshment

Jan 4 Welcome Pastor Belzer

Jan 11 TBD

Jan 18 GaliLadies

Jan 25 Council

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 9a Ham Radio group
4 9a Prayers for Healing 9:30a Galilee Worship 10a MFCLC Choir 11a Welcome Pastor Belzer 11a MFCLC Worship	5	6 10a Donut Group 7p Worship & Music	7 11a Bible Study 6p Bell Choir	8 6:30p Council mtg	9	10
11 9:30a Galilee Worship 10a MFCLC Choir practice 11a MFCLC Worship	12	13 10a Donut Group 12:15p Young At Heart	14 11a Bible Study 1p Villa Park 6p Bell Choir 6p Outreach mtg	15 12p GaliLadies	16	17
18 9:30a Galilee Worship 10a MFCLC Choir 11a 2026 Budget Meeting 11a MFCLC worship	19 MLK DAY	20 10a Donut Group	21 11a Bible Study 6p Bell Choir	22	23	24
25 9:30a Galilee Worship 10a MFCLC Choir 11a Galilee Annual Meeting 11a MFCLC worship	26	27 10a Donut Group 12:15p Young At Heart	28 11a Bible Study 6p Bell Choir	29	30	31

GALILEE

JAN 2026

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Roseville, MN 55113-6923

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www.galileelutheranelca.com

Phone: 651-488-6769

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 A.M.

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

JANUARY 2026

2026 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

Staff

Pastor: Jacqueline Belzer - 612.703.4752
belzer61@gmail.com

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

GALILEE'S MISSION STATEMENT

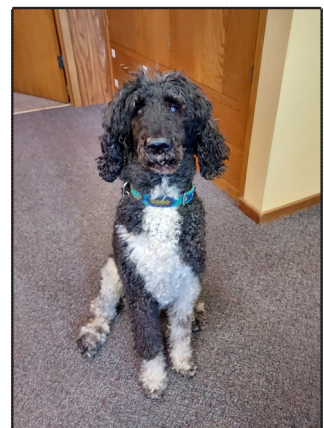
To gather people together to hear the story of God's love in Jesus Christ, to be nurtured in faith and knowledge, and to share the Good News through word and deed.

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 WELCOMES OUR NEW PASTOR, JACQUELINE BELZER ON JANUARY 1ST 2026!



AND DIEGO TOO!