



The power of joy-sharing

by Pastor Katie Baardseth

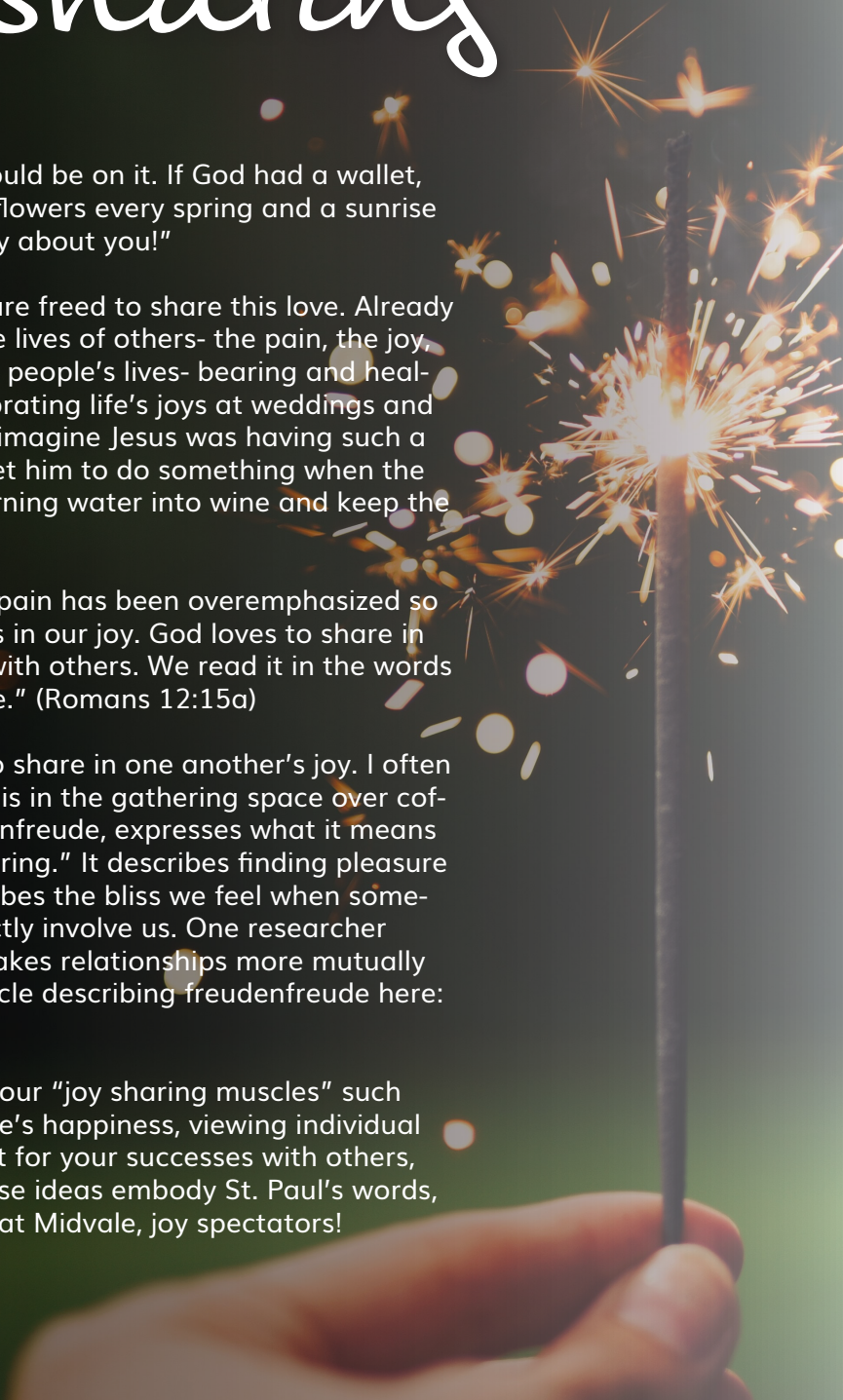
"If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If God had a wallet, your photo would be in it. God sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning... Face it, friend. God's crazy about you!"

When you are loved like this by God, you are freed to share this love. Already centered in God's great love, we join in the lives of others- the pain, the joy, and everything in between. Jesus joined in people's lives- bearing and healing pain, listening and forgiving, and celebrating life's joys at weddings and dinners. Consider the wedding at Cana, I imagine Jesus was having such a good time that his mother had to come get him to do something when the wine ran out. What? Perform a miracle turning water into wine and keep the party going.

Sometimes Jesus' presence with us in our pain has been overemphasized so that we miss God's equal presence with us in our joy. God loves to share in our joy. And God calls us to do the same with others. We read it in the words of St. Paul: "Rejoice with those who rejoice." (Romans 12:15a)

As people of faith, we are called by God to share in one another's joy. I often hear you, Midvale, making a practice of this in the gathering space over coffee and snacks! The German word, *Freudenfreude*, expresses what it means to share in another's joy - literally "joy sharing." It describes finding pleasure in another person's good fortune. It describes the bliss we feel when somebody else succeeds, even if it doesn't directly involve us. One researcher says *freudenfreude* is like social glue, it makes relationships more mutually enjoyable. You can read the NY Times article describing *freudenfreude* here: tinyurl.com/freudenfreude

The article describes ways to strengthen your "joy sharing muscles" such as: showing active interest in someone else's happiness, viewing individual success as a communal effort, share credit for your successes with others, and turning into a joy spectator. All of these ideas embody St. Paul's words, "Rejoice with those who rejoice!" See you at Midvale, joy spectators!



PRAISE

Summer worship schedule

All worship is offered in person in the Sanctuary

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

Hymn Sing - Sunday July 9th between worship services (9:15-9:45am)

Most of us have a favorite hymn, or even more than one. Perhaps a certain hymn brings you a deep sense of God's presence. Maybe it reminds you of a profound spiritual experience in the past, a special event or time in your life, or someone you love.

You're invited to come to the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 9th, between services (9:15-9:45am), for a summer Hymn Sing. You'll learn how to easily locate your favorites in the red hymnal, and then requests will be taken. You're invited to think ahead of time about which ones are your favorites. If you love singing hymns, please join us at the Hymn Sing.



Worship band playing for worship July 16 at 10am

Midvale's worship band will be providing music for the 10:00am worship on Sunday, July 16th.

If you think you might like to try out being part of Midvale's worship band, either as a singer or instrumentalist, please contact Marita Herkert-Oakland at childrensministry@midvalelutheran.org for more information. All are welcome!

Vacation Bible School - register by July 24th

Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year is called Operation Restoration and it will be held from August 7th through 10th from 5:30 - 8:00 pm nightly. Join us for activities, games, food, music, and more as we explore how we can help mend our world! We have programming for 3K - 6th graders, youth leadership opportunities for 7th - 12th graders, and plenty of volunteer and fellowship opportunities for adults! All are welcome. Registration is open now through July 24th at midvalelutheran.org/vacation-bible-school.

Worship at Westmorland Park with church picnic to follow - July 23rd at 10am

Please join us at Westmorland Park for our 10am worship. This outdoor worship will feature the lively country gospel music of the Christian Country Witnesses. Midvale member Gene Nelson is a member of the band. They will play some old favorites for us to sing along as well as some original songs for special music.

Following this special worship, we are having a congregational picnic planned by the Life and Growth Committee (Liz Mael, and Corinna Wells) and Worship Committee (Kay Bloedorn). Details are being finalized at the time of this printing, but we are expecting that Midvale will provide the main meat and that members will be invited to bring side dishes and desserts. Watch for additional signage coming soon in the Gathering Space as well as more details to follow in the e-weekly newsletter.

Note that the regular Saturday 5pm and Sunday 8am worship will be held as usual in the Worship Center.



Christian Country Witnesses to lead worship music July 23 at 10am - Westmorland Park

Worship at 10am will be held at Westmorland Park, with the church picnic to follow. The park worship will feature the lively country 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.



Adult Bible School 2023

The Adult Education Committee at Midvale has once again assembled an Adult Summer Bible School. This is our fourth summer now, and we've had a wonderful time together. Many discussions and reflections have resulted in this year's theme: Creativity.

Creativity is certainly a theological theme, especially as we think about creation stories, and the creative approach of Jesus to his own faith. And creativity is what generates much of our thought and conversation about God and the church in a changing world. It may be said that the times we live in actually require us to be creative and innovative as we navigate an ever changing future.

There are many creative people at Midvale as well, and some of them have volunteered their time for presentations which come out of their own creative lives and experience. Through the summer, we will be looking at creativity in scripture and theology, the creative work of artists in the congregation, and the work of many to help us become a creative congregation.

There are eleven sessions planned for the summer. The July sessions are:

July 6, Thursday, 10:00am - "Quilt Patterns and Techniques - Great Examples of Creativity" with Eric James, Gary Hein, and Debbie Fisher

Eric, Gary, and Debbie will use their sharing of stories with visuals to focus on the patterns found in many quilting traditions. *Please register by Sunday, July 2.*

July 12, Wednesday, 10:00am - The Creative Life with Jean Sandrock

Jean Sandrock, (a member of Midvale, art educator, and professional artist/presenter working in calligraphy, pen and ink, illustration, mixed media collage. whose exhibits and commissioned works include Faith Life Contributions) will share thoughts on how her life as an artist, business owner, educator, and Lutheran has provided opportunities for creativity at every age, school and church, and how we can nurture a creative attitude throughout life. *Please register by Sunday, July 9.*

July 19, Wednesday, 10:00am - The Origins of Personal Creativity with Jeff Wild

Pastor Jeff Wild, who has shared with us many times in Adult Education, will focus on how and where creativity comes from as we think about our own lives. *Please register by Sunday, July 16.*

July 26, Wednesday, 10:00am - An Interactive Session on ALL (Art Learning Lab) Responding Creatively: An Interactive Writing Workshop

Jolynne Roorda and Rita Reese, who are co-executive directors of the Art Learning Lab here in Madison will guide us through an interactive writing workshop to help us express our own creativity. *Please register by Sunday, July 23.*

You can find the titles and descriptions of the all of the sessions and register to attend on our website, midvalelutheran.org/adult-bible-school.

Filling the summer months with music

Do you have any favorite hymns in the hymnal that you love to sing? Do you play an instrument and have music that could be offered during worship?

Whether a solo or part of a duet or small group, you're invited to share a song for special music over the summer months. You can choose whatever date and whichever worship time (Sat 5:00, Sun 8:00, Sun 10:00) works best for you. If you need an accompanist or you would like assistance in finding additional people to form a duet, quartet, etc., Laura Svaren will help. She can also help you find a piece of music if you're not sure what to sing/play. It need not be elaborate and you don't need to consider yourself a "musician." It can be as simple as a favorite hymn from our hymnal. Whatever you offer will enrich our worship experience and open our hearts to God.

Please contact Laura Svaren (lauras@midvalelutheran.org) as soon as possible if this is something you are considering. Details can be worked out later. Thank you!

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.

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



2023 Marion Thoresen Memorial Scholarship recipient

From 2018-2022 Midvale member, Marion Thoresen honored her late grandson, Alex, by establishing the Alex Thoresen Memorial Scholarship through Midvale Community Lutheran Church for students pursuing post-secondary education. Upon Marion's death in 2023, her son Michael and daughter in law Kim (who are Alex's parents) wanted to continue to honor both Marion and Alex in this way. Twelve applicants submitted their essays for consideration.

We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of a \$1000 scholarship is Camille Cole. Camille graduated from Oregon High School and will be attending Drake University to major in Elementary Education this fall. She has been involved at Midvale as a Sunday School and VBS helper, volunteering at Second Harvest, and going to Toledo in 2019 for the Service Learning Trip. You can read her essay below.

As a preschool teacher, I have found that compassion is one of the most important qualities that I can bring to my job. Working with young children presents a unique set of challenges, but it also provides the opportunity for connection and growth. By cultivating compassion, I have been able to better understand and support the children in my care, as well as their families.

Compassion in the context of teaching involves a few different components. First and foremost, it means recognizing and responding to the individual needs of each child. This requires active listening, observation, and a willingness to be flexible and adaptive. For example, a child who is struggling with separation anxiety may need extra reassurance and support in the mornings, while a child who is feeling overwhelmed by social interactions may benefit from more one-on-one time with a teacher. By tuning into these unique needs and responding with empathy and understanding, I am able to create a safe and supportive environment that fosters growth and development.

Another aspect of compassion in teaching is recognizing the strengths and challenges of each child and providing appropriate opportunities for growth. This means creating a lesson plans that is both challenging, and can be accomplished by the kids in my care. It also means celebrating the achievements and progress of each child, no matter how small. By focusing on strengths and creating a positive and supportive atmosphere, I am able to help children build confidence and self-esteem, which are essential for long-term success.

Finally, compassion in teaching also involves recognizing the broader context in which children are growing and developing. This means understanding the unique challenges and stressors that families may be facing, and providing support and resources when possible. It also means working collaboratively with colleagues to create a cohesive and supportive learning community. By recognizing and responding to these broader contexts, I am able to create a more compassionate approach to teaching that benefits everyone involved.

In my experience, cultivating compassion in teaching is not always easy, but it is always worth it. By taking the time to listen, observe, and respond with empathy and understanding, I am able to create a safe and supportive environment that fosters growth and development for both children and adults. Whether it is offering a comforting hug, providing extra support during a challenging time, or simply acknowledging and celebrating the unique strengths of each child, compassion is a crucial ingredient for success in the classroom and beyond.

Bless our Country

by Dylan Abraham

*This is our country
God protects us all,
Showing faith and mercy
We all stand tall.*

*We give our thanks
to God above,
Living our lives
With His love.*

*On our nation's birthday
We praise Him from our heart,
Every day
A brand-new start.*

*So, on our birthday
We enjoy the day,
Following Him closely
Following His way.*

*Prayer: Dear Lord, on this our
country's birthday, we give you
thanks for what you have given
us. We are humble and grateful;
and, we thank you for your faith
and love. Amen.*



Trip with Border Servant Corps - January 18-23, 2024

In January 2023, Pastor Katie traveled to El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico to participate in Border Servant Corps. This ministry was begun in 1997 by Dot Quaintance, a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The mission of Dot and her congregation was to serve the border region of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

'Together we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly in the US/Mexico borderlands by hosting groups interested in accompaniment style immersion, where relationships and firsthand educational experiences about border issues are prioritized; creating opportunities for learning and service.' -Border Servant Corps

Pastor Katie invites you to join her for Border Servant Corps in January 2024. Save the dates- Thursday, January 18 to Tuesday, January 23. Please consider joining her for this experience where you can travel, learn and serve those at the US border.

'Seeing the borderlands for myself, learning and serving with other people, being immersed in New Mexico and Texas' natural beauty and culture has shaped my view of what it means to follow Jesus in the dynamic world around us.' - Pastor Katie

Memorial Fund Purchases December 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

We are grateful for the generosity that is shown in memorial donations given to the church. These gifts remember and give thanks for the life of someone who has died, honor someone, or may be designated for a specific ministry. They enable our congregation to do new, meaningful ministries, as well as respond in positive ways to unexpected opportunities for reaching out with the good news of Jesus. Thank you!

Jane Lee Bainbridge	New coffee pot	February
Alma Dambekaln	Outside faucet repair	May
Richard Johnson	Art glass booklet	January
Rev. Sig & Darlyce Sandrock	Green paraments	January
Jane Schultz	Choral music	January
Jane Schultz	Piano life saver system installation	February
Jane Schultz	Piano string cover	March
Jane Schultz	Choral music	December
Jane Schultz	CCLI music license	December
Jane Schultz	Choral music	December
Brenda Sischo	Artwork framing	February
Thrivent Choice	Basket for Bible study class	February
Thrivent Choice	Lent study supplies	February
Thrivent Choice	Children sermon giveaways	February
Thrivent Choice	Lent devotionals printing	Februarys
Thrivent Choice	Lent devotionals printing	March
Thrivent Choice	Bible study prizes	March
Thrivent Choice	Lent table display	March
Thrivent Choice	Easter children giveaways	April
Thrivent Choice	Ordinary Blessings books	December
Thrivent Choice	Lent resources	December
Thrivent Choice	Retired pastors coffee refreshments	December
Thrivent Choice	Lent bird figurines	December
Florence Wetzel	Education Wing project work	January
Florence Wetzel	Education Wing project work	February
Florence Wetzel	Education Wing project work	April

A note of appreciation from Nola Allen

'Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.' Romans 12:12

July 1st is a new date in my mind's memory calendar. We all have them- new dates we would rather not have the need to remember. I have now passed a full year since being injured by a car, and another year of God's grace.

Through hard work, and your encouragement, kindness, and continued prayers, I have made great progress. I know my work is not done, as I am still on my path to wholeness and acceptance. May we all persevere in prayer, encouragement and kindness- and celebrate God's grace, what ever day of the year it is.

My thanks to you all for your continued prayers for me.

- Nola Allen

SHARE



Travel to the Holy Land with Pastor Blake - March 1-13, 2024

The trip is over half-full, but there are still spaces available. Pastor Blake is hoping to have most of the group registered by the end of May (but if space is available, registrations can continue until November, 2023). The Holy Land is a place full of beauty and inspiration. We will walk in the lands of the Bible, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We will share moments of group reflection, prayer and worship to deepen our experience and understanding. Our time will include authentic encounters with the people who live in the land today. Our itinerary and the smaller group size allows us to move beyond the typical tourist sites to a richer exchange. Details about the trip, including an itinerary and cost, are on the church website midvalelutheran.org by selecting the "Grow" tab and choosing the Holy Land Trip link. For questions or more information, contact Pastor Blake - blaker@midvalelutheran.org.

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	† Katherine Mueller	7/15	† Ada Immel
7/5	† Odin Baardseth	7/17	† Ellie Vinje
7/6	† Felix Underwood	7/20	† Freya Bottorff
7/9	† Françoise Adja Ziegler	7/23	† Jack Killoran
7/11	† Samuel Thill	7/24	† Tali Minko
7/13	† Henry Anhalt	7/25	† Sophia Wegner
7/15	† Raelynn Hagy	7/30	† Jack Kaiser
		7/30	† Thomas Kaiser

In our prayers remember:

† Hospitality as we welcome friends, visitors and guests.

† Health, comfort and healing for: Bill Weiss (father of Becki Fiegel), Richard LaBrie, Jeff Leeder (brother of Randi Leeder), Tonya Pankov (friend of Karen Bogenschneider), Diane Baima and Yurii Potapenko, Nola Allen, Greg Lampe, Julie Underwood (daughter of Linda Crane), Adrian Gutierrez (grandson of Bob & Carol Ostergren), Lois Ludwig (friend of Neal Hamlett), Toni Combs (friend of Neal Hamlett), Daniel Johansson (nephew of Bianca Tomasini-Johansson and Mats Johansson), Chris Hill, Samantha Kealey (cousin of Elise Uphoff), Cynthia Erdal (aunt of Amy Bishell), Richard and Adelle Johnson, Robert Zimmerman, Cleo Loftsgordon, Acadia Bradley (friend of Enid and Frank Erdman), Steve Bassett, Ron Radunzel, and Gordon Thomson (brother-in-law of Eric James and Gary Hein).

† 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" tab.

prayer chain

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

Midvale Community Lutheran Church

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Telephone 608-238-7119

Email info@midvalelutheran.org

Website midvalelutheran.org

Office Hours 8:30 am-12:30 pm

MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4329 TOKAY BOULEVARD . MADISON . WI 53711

Dated Material

all are welcome!

Summer worship schedule

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 8:00am (also on
Facebook Live)

Sunday at 10:00am



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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Outdoor worship and church picnic July 23 at 10am

Join us at Westmorland park on July 23 at 10am for outdoor worship with a church picnic to follow. More details can be found on page 2

