

## Deacon 2021 Report

A lot has changed over the last year and a lot has stayed the same. That can be tiring and stressful, and it can tear at the seams of our bond as the Church Body. Despite the many times this year where we have wanted things to change and all the times we have wanted things to remain the same, they do not. Despite all of that, we have assurance in the fact that Jesus is with us always until the end of the age. God has been faithful to Valhalla Lutheran Church since before its inception and He will continue to be faithful. He has guided us through two world wars, two pandemics, having to leave ELCIC, Pastors coming and going, and so many more little blessings that it is impossible, while we remain on this mortal coil, to list them all!

The Deacons have continued to provide service leaders and pulpit supply. A big thank-you to all the volunteers that continue to make the Church Service possible: the coffee makers, the flower waterers, service leaders, piano players, snow plowing, grass cutting, etc! Without all of you we wouldn't have a Service and that underscores the importance of your work. It has been a great personal joy for me to watch people grow and take on new roles within the Church!

Also, a special thanks to the Pastors who have been so willing to provide sermons and deliver God's Word to us. I have had the privilege of organizing the pastors, and it has given me real insight into how the Holy Spirit moves in our Congregation. My next point is truly worth sharing to encourage our congregation and can't be empathized enough: Pastors love coming to our Church! Across the board, they thank us for the opportunity, from the young pastors who have never been in a Lutheran Church - all the way up to the more experienced pastors. It is universal. Praise God!

To close my report, I would like to give a special thanks to Steve for his work on the Deacon board these last few years. It has been a difficult time, and your work and wisdom have always been appreciated and helpful! I would also like to thank Donna for agreeing to come on as a Deacon! From our first few meetings, I can already tell it will be a blessing to have your help!

May God continue to pour out his blessing on all of us individually and corporately as the Church Body. As Pastor Darcy always prayed: may we be a light on the hill! Amen

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Kochendorfer