



**Matthew Valan** lives with his wife of 41 years on the home quarter of the Red River Valley family farm his paternal grandmother founded in 1903. Valan earned his BA in Political Science and History from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Luther Seminary in St Paul, MN. Currently serving as Senior Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, his entire career of 36 years in youth and family ministry has been serving in the Fargo-Moorhead community. He is a nationally recognized speaker on youth, family, and educational issues.