PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

*That all may come, Serving all the people of God*

**Pastor’s Corner, December, 2015**

Fear.

It seems that over the past few weeks, I have been hearing and reading a lot in the news and talking with others about fear. Fear over bombings throughout the Middle East and what that means for our future. Fear over whether France will go to war and we would join them. Fear over allowing refugees into the United States. Fear over what it would mean for those refugees to come to Wisconsin.

Fear.

And I understand; I really do. We live in a world that can feel really scary. And it’s not just fear over global political situations. We have fear for our families, our jobs, our income, our schools, and our communities. At times, it can feel overwhelming; like the fear we have for our family and world could swallow us.

Fear is good for us. It is part of the sympathetic nervous system which, when we face a scary or dangerous situation, is our fight or flight response. Our heart rate increases, our blood pressure increases, blood is redirected to our muscles as digestion slows, and our pupils dilate so we can see the dangers all around us. Fear is an evolutionary survival mechanism. It keeps us safe in times of danger.

But, we were not meant to live in a constant state of fear. When we experience stress or fear, our body produces cortisol. Prolonged exposure to cortisol is known to be bad for our overall health including cognition, bone health, and weight gain which can lead to heart and circulation problems.

It is no wonder, then, the one of the most frequent sentences in the Bible is “fear not” or “do not be afraid.” Do not be afraid, for God is with you. Do not be afraid for God is ever faithful to God’s people. Do not be afraid for your hope in Christ is certain. Do not be afraid.

Together we move joyfully into the Christmas season. Culturally we prepare with lights, trees, presents, cookies, and family gatherings. In the Church, we proclaim, again to the world that God comes. God comes, fully human, fully God, and takes on all it means to be human. God, in Jesus Christ, comes into our world to make all things new. God comes to transform those things that give us fear and danger and calls us to live a life of peace and hope in Christ.

We hold different political and social beliefs. And, truly, we likely disagree on what our human response to the fears of this world should be, globally, nationally, and here in Wisconsin. But, we rest on the same hope; God comes into our world to make all things new. While we may, from time to time, fear the things of this world, we do not despair. Let us proclaim loudly in words and actions to our world of fear, “fear not” for God’s Kingdom comes. And let us live lives free of the bonds of fear to live the way of the cross; the way of care for all God’s people and creation.

Blessing, Pastor JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes**

Sunday, November 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 by President Nola Herzberg.

**NON-AGENDA**

 President Herzberg has been approached with several items. One concern was money being spent on conferences that members attend. The concern was that we spend money on WELCA conferences when we no longer have a women’s group. The two conferences in question were the Annual Secretary’s gathering and the upcoming Dairyland Conference in 2016. Neither of these come under the heading of WELCA. And we were not asked for money to send a representative to the Dairyland Conference – just if we might have a fund raiser for the purpose of defraying the cost of the Conference. It was suggested that, just as we have had Temple Talks from attendees after supporting campers to Luther Park, we also have some kind of feed-back, either to the council or in a Temple Talk, from attendees of conferences. All agreed.

 We need to keep our Mission Offering benefactors in the bulletins and in announcements throughout the month.

 Gary Isaacson, our volunteer bell ringer for the last 50 years, has requested that he be retired from that job. Both Randy Sands and Randy Winger have volunteered to take over the job.

 There was a comment about the chanting that was done during the Kyrie. We have also had several comments on how the chanting was enjoyed and had been done in the past.

**REPORTS**

The secretary’s report was read. The treasurer’s report was read. The total mission offering for LWR and other recipients for quilting was $205.

The Pastor’s report was presented. Pastor JonPaul will begin confirmation class this Wednesday, November 11, at either 6 or 6:30. Corissa will contact Brennan VanLandingham to see if he is able to attend.

When doing Pastoral Care at the church, Pastor JonPaul has requested that there be another person at the church. He will do Pastoral Care at the church upon request. John Poore, Ruth Poore, and Crystal Sands have volunteered. JonPaul can let us know if he needs more volunteers.

There is interest in having Pastor JonPaul give a class for those wanting to give communion to shut-ins they are visiting. We did not discuss having a once-a-month gathering to consecrate the sacraments.

The Ambassadors report was presented. They will be gathering on Thursday, November 19, at 6:30, for their Annual Event. There will be a meeting, election of officers, pizza, cookies, and the Christmas Program scripts will be handed out.

Corissa, as chairperson of the Call Committee, has finished all paperwork, etc., connected with calling a pastor to Pleasant Valley. Ruth made a motion to dissolve the Call Committee, since their work is done. Roxie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

All reports were approved with a motion from John Poore. Second by Randy Sands. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

 **Bazaar** – The bazaar totals are almost in and are up from last year. We had $250 in support from Thrivent, applied for by Randy and Kay Sands. We have been offered to have a booth at Cleghorn Fest all three days, rather than just Saturday, which is the day for vendors. We will consider that, but need to have more volunteers to run the booth. This year we only had 5 volunteers, which is not enough to run it for 3 days.

**Education** – Practice for the Christmas program will be on Saturday, December 12, at 8 a.m. A Christmas party and lunch will follow the practice. The program will be presented on Sunday, December 13, during the 9 a.m. church service. Corissa will contact Mark Koser to see if he could pick up apples and candy bars to be handed out after the program. We only need half as many as last year; about 50 candy bars and 1 box of apples.

 **Building/property** – Adolf Pichler has not been contacted as to when he is able to start work on the steeple.

The windows in the basement have been installed. Thanks John. The old ones have been gotten rid of. Thanks Randy Sands.

I contacted Dick Bahr about the cemetery gates.

Nola Herzberg now has a key for the church.

The Memorial Board is being updated.

Worship – Pascal candle will be left as is.

We will have a “Get-to-know Jessica (Dragseth)/baby shower” at the church on November 15 after the church service. Plans have been made.

Kay Sands is looking for a project or need to use as a memorial for her father, who has recently passed away. A security system (cameras) had been suggested. Also, more padded chairs for upstairs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 We will have a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 25 at 6 p.m.

 We have received a benevolence pledge request from the Synod. Roxie will handle that.

 Roxie will get a Ministry Plan (budget) ready for next month’s meeting so we can discuss it before the Annual Meeting. We have 2 members going off the council at the next Annual Meeting – Randy Sands and Randy Winger. They are on the nominating committee to find two new members-at-large to be elected to the council.

 We cleaned up the mailing list for The Lutheran Magazine.

Mission offering – November – Ludwigsons of Eleva, to help with flood-related costs.

 December – Barnabas House in Chippewa Falls – now providing all night services for those in need of food and shelter

 Next meeting – December 6

Motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Poore. Second by Nola Herzberg. Carried. The meeting closed at 11:55 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: Nola Herzberg, Roxie Ulness, Randy Sands, Randy Winger, John Poore, Corissa Sands, Ruth Poore

**Treasurers’ Report**

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**This month’s Mission Offering**

December - Barnabas House in Chippewa Falls – now providing all night services for those in need of food and shelter

**Men's Ministry**

Nothing scheduled at this time

**Youth Ministry:**

Practice for the Christmas program will be on Saturday, December 12, at 8 a.m. A Christmas party and lunch will follow the practice. The program will be presented on Sunday, December 13, during the 9 a.m. church service

**Sunday school**

The Sunday school will rehearse on Saturday December 12 at 8:00 a.m. followed by a Christmas party at 11:30. The Sunday school program is Sunday, December 13. Please be to the church by 8:15 a.m.

After Sunday school on November 8, taught by Sharon Anderson, Isabella told Grandma Ruthi, "Today we learned about the Good Samaritan. It was the most wonderful story I ever heard!"

**Choir**

The choir will rehearse on December 6 and December 13 after church, and will sing on December 20.

**Christmas love**

I heard a story a few years back about a Sunday school Christmas program, where the children were lined up, each holding a letter for the phrase, "Christmas Love". However, the little boy who held the M held it upside down. So then the message was, "Christ was love." What a wonderful reminder of why Jesus came to earth. He did it out of love for us. He was indeed, and is, love.

**Parish Nurse**

Blood pressures will be taken after church on Sunday, December 20. Pleasant Valley hosted the Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse gathering in November. The topic was diabetes. If you have any questions regarding diabetes, please chat with Ruthann.

We are in the midst of flu season. If you have the sniffles, feel free to not shake hands when we pass the peace. A smile and wave can be just as friendly!

**Tell us your stories:**

Ruthann will be writing a monthly article, telling your faith stories. Do you have a story to share regarding your faith, your family, your vocation? Please see Ruthann tell her your story, and it will be written for you. "I love to tell the story!"

**Praise Team News**

The praise team will lead worship at Pleasant Valley and at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on Sunday, December 27. The group is planning to visit homebound members for afternoon of Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 6 beginning at 1 p.m. Contact Kim Vlcek if you would like to join the carolers, or if you have someone you would like the group to visit.

**W ELCA**

“All Anew” is the theme for Women of the ELCA’s Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN, July 13-16, 2017. Think about going along! Talk to Sadie and Monica for more info.

\***FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, November 22nd for the December Newsletter.**

**Call Monica Bahr - 715-287-4742,**

**or E-mail:** dmbahr@tcc.coop. **Also, E-mail the church at:** plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop **with any bulletin or newsletter announcements, esp. prayer request and updates. Thanks.**

**Bulletin items due by Wednesday p.m.**

**I’ll be printing them on Thursday evening.**

**Happy Birthday** to Margaret Hazen on December 11th.send a card to Syverson Home Address – Syverson Lutheran Home, 816 Porter Ave. – room #223, Eau Claire WI 54701

**TEXTS AND READERS FOR DECEMBER**

**Second Sunday of Advent – 6th**

Malachi 3:1-4 *Kim Vlcek*

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

**Third Sunday of Advent – 13th**

Zephaniah 3:14-20 *Kim Vlcek*

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20th**

Micah 5:2-5a *Monica Bahr*

Luke 1:46b-55 or - Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**Christmas Eve- 24th** *Sharon Anderson / Roxie Ulness*

*Possible changes pending*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

**First Sunday of Christmas – 27th**

1 Samuel 12:18-20, 26  *Kay Sands*

Psalm 1148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52



 **IN NEED OF PRAYER**

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Isabella Knutson** – lots of health concerns (Ruthi’s granddaughter)

**Robert Kilde** – Found cancer while having surgery

**Kim Vlcek** Full recovery from shoulder surgery

**Christine Thompson** – Recovering from a fall

**Family of Minnie Crawford –**Evelyn Mousel’s sister, Lived in California; has passed away.

**Linda Ahlers –** undergoing chemo for liver cancer; Lake City, MN (friend of the Poore’s)

**Joy Glende -** She is having many tests done due to the car accident.

**Alea Bahr –** young grandniece diagnosed with CP - cerebral palsy.

**Brittany Beavens** - She has Myotonic Dystrophy. She is the daughter of Kim and Mark Koser and resides in MN.

**Her son Jeremiah** - also has Myotonic Dystrophy

**Our service men and women, including Alex Bauer**

**The inmates at CVCTF** - Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility in Chippewa Falls

**This month’s Mission Offering -** *- Barnabas House in Chippewa Falls – now providing all night services for those in need of food and shelter*

**From Luther Park Bible Camp**

This year, on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, Luther Park Bible Camp is participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving.

Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Last year, more than 27,000 organizations in 68 countries came together to celebrate #GivingTuesday. Since its founding in 2012, #GivingTuesday has inspired giving around the world, resulting in greater donations, volunteer hours, and activities that bring about real change in communities. We invite you to join the movement and get out and give this December 1.

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

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“That all May come, Serving all the People of God”

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Website: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.ccop](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.ccop)

**DECEMBER 2015**

**Merry Christmas**

**Christmas Sunday School &**

**Ambassador Program**

**Sunday Dec.13th**

**Christmas Worship on Dec 24 at 5:30**