PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

**Pastor’s Corner November, 2015**

**Giving Thanks**

 **November marks at least two important holidays in American culture. Many of us will come together at the end of the month, gathering with friends and family, to celebrate Thanksgiving. The second holiday, celebrated with nearly just as much reverence, is the day-after-Thanksgiving, where crowds of people will cram department stores trying to get the best deal on Christmas presents. The fact that these two days occur right next to each other sends quite a message.**

 **We live in a me-centered culture. Popular images, from billboards to music to television, tell us that we should be focused on ourselves. We should worry about how much money we make, what cars we drive, what toys we have, what clothes we wear, and what our body looks like. We join social clubs only as long as they benefit us. We let friendships go because they no longer serve our needs.**

 **Religious and spiritual groups have grown-up feeding these obsessions. They tell us that if only we do enough praying, act the right ways, make the right decision, or write big enough checks to the church that God will reward us. It is a Me-God exchange. When it comes right down to it, these groups tell us that God is in the business of bartering. “OK, God, now this week I helped a lady cross the street, gave fifteen percent of my income to the church, and prayed every morning and every night, so now I should be set for awhile, right?” The problem with this thinking, in all its modern varieties, as Martin Luther discovered (well, it was just Reformation Day!), is that it becomes impossible to know when you’ve done enough to meet the bartering price to receive God’s blessing. And so we are compelled to work harder and harder out of fear and despair that we may never do enough.**

 **Paul writes that while we were still sinners, God proves God’s love through Christ’s death for us (Romans 5.8). There is no exchange rate; there is no fee on our side. It is simply God’s love for us. It sounds impossible, it sounds too-good-to-be-true, and it sounds a little ridiculous. But, that’s who God is. Without any requirement or fee, without any examination to see if we are good enough, God loves us and is with us through Christ and the Holy Spirit. This is why we give thanks, not just on one day in November over too much food, but every day of our lives. Come to church, read the Bible, and hear the stories of God’s acts of love without any prerequisites. Read especially this month Psalm 107. Hear how God answers and rescues even those who society says are the least worthy. And then pray. Pray to God who asks nothing of you, but invites you into a life-changing relationship with God and with one another. We are free to help out others, give our gifts to the work of the church, and other acts of charity, service, and love, not because we need to get something from God, but as a way of life lived in the mercy of God’s grace. Now there’s something to be thankful for.**

**Blessing,**

**JonPaul Dragseth**

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes**

Sunday, October 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 by President Nola Herzberg. Pastor JonPaul led us in a prayer.

NON-AGENDA

 Monica hopes to attend a conference in the Twin Cities in 2016. We don’t have the details, but she wondered if a fund-raiser could be held to help defray the cost. We tabled this until we have the details.

 We will have a “Get-to-know Jessica (Dragseth)/baby shower” at the church on November 15 after the church service. Plans have not yet been made.

REPORTS

The secretary’s report was read. The treasurer’s report was read. The total mission offering for Theresa Enoz Dewitz was $209.

The pastor’s report was oral. The Gideons have again requested that they come to the church to explain their mission and their methods of paying for the mission. Pastor JonPaul will contact them and try to set it up for October 18 or November 8. He would prefer the representative does not give his presentation in the sanctuary.

The message on the answering machine at church still has Pastor Bill as a contact. That needs to be changed to Pastor JonPaul’s information.

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 and needs some volunteers to be there, but not in the meeting, with those that have requested to meet with him.

Pastor JonPaul has been asked about members of the congregation that are visiting shut-ins giving communion. He sees this as an extension of communion during a regular service, and therefore does not feel the sacraments need to be consecrated. Or, he may in the future have a once-a-month gathering to consecrate the sacraments. A class will be scheduled for those wanting to give communion to shut-ins they are visiting.

Pastor JonPaul asked us to be prepared for a full church on November 1, when he is installed. We will have a “cake and coffee” reception after the service in the fellowship hall. Roxie will get the cake.

Pastor JonPaul has requested two Sundays off due to commitments he made before he was hired to be our pastor. He will be gone November 8 and November 22. He will get a Pulpit Supply pastor to do the service on November 8. I will ask the Praise Team if they will do the sermon on November 22, a regular Praise Team Sunday. Or, he could do a November 19 (Thursday evening) service to take the place of the November 22 service.

There was no Ambassadors report.

Corissa, as chairperson of the Call Committee, had papers from the Synod that needed to be signed as part of hiring JonPaul to be part-time pastor. They included his contract, responsibilities, salary, and so on. His contract is for 15 hours a week, at $19,454.22, with no housing allowance. He will be paid mileage for visitations at homes or at the church. He will get two weeks of vacation per year. His contract is effective as of October 1, 2015.

We have also received copies of inserts for the bulletin on the day of JonPaul’s installation – November 1. The page titled “FUND for LEADERS” will need to be put in all bulletins between now and up to November 1. We need a separate envelope in the November 1 bulletin designated for that fund.

We will need a portable mike for the installation. We needed 3 leaders to take part in the installation – one at the baptismal font, one at the pulpit, and one at the altar. Volunteers were signed up.

We thanked Corissa for all her work as Call Committee Chairperson.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

 Bazaar – The bazaar brought in $785 more than last year. We made $3,572, with some expenses still needing to be paid. Thrivent backed us with a $250 member’s benefit through Randy and Kay Sands. The silent auction went well and should be repeated. It was suggested that we use bidding numbers rather than names so we don’t have “bidding wars” based on names. Also, we should have the phone numbers put on the bids. The cake walk had 17 cakes, which was too many. There was also a request that the products be labeled as to whether they have nuts in the ingredient list. To think about for next year: getting a vinyl banner-type sign made to put on Highway 37 in Mondovi and possibly one near Eleva and one on Highway 93 and HH. Prices from DigiCopy were presented.

**Education –**

 **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 will need to be installed from the outside. They will be installed soon.

I contacted Dick Bahr about the cemetery gates. One is broken. He will handle that.

Randy Sands will get a church key to Nola Herzberg.

The Memorial Board is being updated.

Worship – No report on the Paschal Candle.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 Kay Sands is looking for a project or need to use as a memorial for her father, who has recently passed away. We talked about more 4 foot tables.

 WELCA meeting is this Monday and Tuesday. Roxie will write a check to cover Monica’s fee and half of Kathy Tweet’s.

 The Thrivent shirts gotten for a fund raiser will be set out to be given away. All the bottom kitchen cabinets have mold in them. They are being cleaned, and there are several large aluminum pans that are to be given away or gotten rid of. JonPaul will handle that.

 Mission offering – October – supplies for quilts to give to LWR and other places

 November – Ludwigsons of Eleva, to help with flood-related costs. They will also be having a benefit in November.

 Next meeting – November 8

Motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Poore. Second by Randy Sands. Carried. The meeting closed at 12:05 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

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

**Treasurers’ Report**

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**This month’s Mission Offering**

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

**Men's Ministry**

November 14th, , serving.

**Youth Ministry:**

Sunday school will take place on November 8th, 15th. Sharon Anderson will be teaching.

**Sunday school**

Sunday school will meet at 10:15 a.m. on November 8 and 15. Thanks to Sharon Anderson for teaching this month!

**Choir**

The Pleasant Valley choir will rehearse after church on November 8, and at 8:45 a.m. on November 15. We will sing Amazing Grace on the 15th.

**Parish Nurse**

Pleasant Valley will host the area parish nurse group on Friday, November 6 at 8:30 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken after church on November 22.

Remember that there are additional packets for advance directives in the fellowship hall for anyone wanting to address their end of life wishes.

**Praise Team News**

The praise team will lead worship at Pleasant Valley and the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on November 22 and 29. The group had fun playing at a fundraiser at the Eau Claire Bit & Spur Club on October 3. Our mission is to share the Gospel through music, prayer, and testimony.

**TEXTS AND READERS FOR NOVEMBER**

**All Saints Day- 1st (Installation Sunday for Pastor JonPaul Dragseth)**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 – *Randy Sands*

Psalm 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 8th**

1 Kings 17:8-16 *Roxie Ulness*

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - 15th**

Daniel 12:1-3 *Ruthann Knutson*

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14[15-18]19-25

Mark 13:1-8

**Christ the King Sunday – 22nd (Thankoffering Service)**

Jeremiah 31:7-9 *Corissa Sands (Might have some changes forthcoming)*

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

**Thanksgiving Eve Service – 24th**

Joel 2:21-27 *Larry Sands*

Psalm 126

1Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6:25-33

**First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9 *John Poore*

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



**Happy Birthday** to Evelyn Mousel on November 19th. Address – 1300 W Pine Rd. W1300 Pine Rd. Eleva WI 54738

\***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.**

 **IN NEED OF PRAYER**

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Christine Thompson** - struggling with lupus and pending surgeries

**Minnie Crawford –** back in hospital, they found another tumor behind her eye; Evelyn Mousel’s sister; lives in California.

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

**Linda Hull -** Chaplain at CVCTF, recovering from hip surgery

**Pastor Lewis Thompson from Osseo ELCA** – Cancer

**Joy Glende -** she is having many tests done due to the accident last winter.

**Alea Bahr –** young grandniece of Dick Bahr, has been 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 (Type 1).

**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 -** quilting supplies for LWR and other places.

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

W2450 Cty. Rd. WW

Eleva WI 54738

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

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Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.ccop

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**Election Day**

**Veterans Day**

**Martin Luther’s Birthday**

**Thankoffering service**

**Thanksgiving Eve service**

**Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!**