PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

**From JonPaul: October, 2015**

In 1517, when Martin Luther first published the Ninety-Five Theses, he set in motion a series of events that would forever change the face of Christianity. Luther was, by no means, the first reformer of the church, nor was he the last, but the publication of these grievances stands as a pivotal event in Christian history.

 But, it was never Luther’s intent to break from the Catholic Church. Luther’s intent was to work from the inside, to point out what he saw as problems in the Church and work for change. In 1517, Luther would not have imagined a break from the Church that would bear his name; Lutheran.

 In truth, Luther was participating in a long tradition in Jewish and Christian faith. Matthew, Chapter 5, starts Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. It is here we read Jesus saying, “You have heard that it was said…but I say to you.” Jesus is playing his part as a Rabbi, interpreting and reforming the Jewish faith for his listeners. Much of the New Testament can be read in this light; Jesus engaging in the debates of his time regarding Jewish beliefs and practices and reforming the common understanding of God, God’s people, and Law. Certainly, Jesus, Son of God, is more than just a teacher, but he certainly was a teacher and engaged in the debates of his time.

 In May of 1882, another reformation was taking place. A group of dedicated and faithful Christians decided to form a congregation, one that would become Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church. Since that time, the congregation has been served by 21 pastors (including 2 interims) and an intern. Pleasant Valley has been a stand-alone congregation, a two-point parish, and even a three-point parish. Throughout its history, the people of Pleasant Valley have continually and carefully discerned who they were in their time and place, as members of the Body of Christ, the whole catholic Church, and the Eleva community. Pleasant Valley has undergone many reformations.

 And now, this congregation, this group of faithful people of God, stands ready to begin a new reformation in our history. Jason has finished his service among the people of Pleasant Valley and the congregation is thankful for his ministry. And as of this publication, the congregation has once again met and voted whether to call a new pastor. And, regardless of the outcome of that vote, a future ripe with new possibilities has been opened.

 We are to be Ecclesia semper reformanda; a church in continual reformation. On Sunday, October 25th, we will join together to celebrate Reformation Sunday; a Sunday in which we celebrate our heritage in Luther’s Reformation and pray for the reconciliation of all our churches. Let our prayer together that day also be that we, the people of Pleasant Valley, will dare to dream how once again we are being reformed to be the people of God in this time and place.

Blessing,

JonPaul Dragseth

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes**

Sunday, September 6, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 by President Nola Herzberg. Jason led us in a prayer.

**NON-AGENDA**

 Ruthann Knutson has requested that she have a meeting of parish nurses on a Friday early in November at the church. She will handle the refreshments, set-up, and clean up. The council agreed to have Ruthann use the church for the meeting.

REPORTS

The secretary’s report was read. The treasurer’s report was read. The total mission offering for Mondovi Food Pantry was $258. All reports were approved with a motion from John Poore. Second by Randy Sands. Motion carried.

The pastor’s report was oral. Jason will be ordained at Svea church in Hager City, Wisconsin, Saturday, September 26, at 2 p.m. He will be installed at Solon Springs on September 27. Wednesday, September 16 will be used as an all visitation day, since September 2 was spent all in the office. When moving to a new place in Solon Springs Jason will have a U-Haul but may need help loading and unloading.

There was no Ambassadors report.

The Call Committee will meet with JonPaul Dragseth on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. We went over the discussion items we will use when we talk to him. Pastor Greg Kaufmann, working with JonPaul from the Synod, will join us. The discussion items are at the end of these minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

 Education – Sunday School is set to begin with Rally Day September 13th. All teachers are set up for the year.

 Building/property – John found a lift to rent for use when the steeple is resided, and he got an estimate. Adolf Pichler will have to rent the lift (due to amount of insurance needed) when he is able to start work on the steeple.

The windows in the basement will need to be installed from the outside. John will contact Art Syth to see when he can assist in directing the installers.

The cemetery gates need to be shored up. I will contact Dick Bahr to see what the Cemetery Committee can do about that.

We will have an after worship church cleaning on September 27 to get ready for the bazaar.

Randy Sands will get a church key to Aaron Sands.

The Memorial Board is being updated.

Worship – The Paschal Candle has not been modified.

**Bazaar** – October 4 – worship at 10 – King’s Countrymen leading – chicken dinner, headed up by Randy and Kay Sands – Cleghorn Fest is Saturday, September 12, from 9 to 4, we need a couple more volunteers – minimum bids will be set for silent auction items – raffle tickets are on sale now.

Jason could not get a better price for the quilt batting. Sadie will purchase it on-line from Oakley.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 Mission offering – September – Theresa (Enoz) Dewitz – help with costs related to her cancer surgeries & treatment

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

 Next meeting – October 11

Motion to adjourn was made by John Poore. Second by Ruth Poore. Motion carried.

 Meeting adjourned at 11:40. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: Nola Herzberg, Jason Clifton, Roxie Ulness, Randy Sands, Randy Winger, Aaron Sands, John Poore, Dan Herzberg, & Ruth Poore

**Concurrence interview: JonPaul** **Dragseth** Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. with Greg Kaufmann from the Synod.

**Questions for Concurrence Interview**

 1. Describe your faith journey and your sense of call to be a pastor.

 2. What personal traits and gifts do you have that make it possible for you to be effective as a pastor? Describe your style of ministry.

 3. Do you have a preference for worship style? Describe ours to him.

 4. How do you plan to have children be a part of worship?

 5. How do you envision a growing congregation to assimilate new members and revitalize the church?

 6. What is it about our congregation that interests you ~~and challenges you~~?

 7. Music is an important part of Pleasant Valley's ministry. How do you see music fitting into worship and ministry?

 8. In what ways would you participate ecumenically in this community? (other churches, neighbors, Mondovi Area Clergy Association) ~~How would you bring this into a church setting?~~ How would you bring the church into the community?

 9. What Sunday's will you be available? Wednesday in Lent (Advent?), confirmation

 10. How would you keep homebound individuals or people unable to be here on a regular basis connected to the church?

 11. What have previous intern experiences taught you ~~that you could use to help us through our call process~~?

 Information for JonPaul Dragseth:

Expectations: preach every Sunday, home visits to homebound people, probationary period, contract,

Salary: $ 19,454 per year = 1621.17 per month or $810.58 twice monthly payment. This is for a 20 hour a week pastor. JonPaul would probably be less than that.

No health insurance or housing allowance. Do we need to pay housing?

Office hours by appointment

Vacation

Funerals

Would being part-time interfere with his ordination?

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran church Call Committee**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by President Nola Herzberg. Pastor Greg Kaufmann gave a devotion on Isaiah 42 – How to be faithful in a new world - and led us in prayer.

Corissa and Nola asked JonPaul the following questions from the Concurrence Interview, although they attempted to keep it somewhat informal:

JonPaul served an internship in Owatonna, Minnesota. He has also served in two small congregations near Lacrosse; Cassville and Bagley. He feels that it is important to have consistency between and pastor and a congregation. There needs to be trust building between the two parties. Being a pastor is how JonPaul thinks about his job and life.

When asked how he would involve the children as a part of the worship and ministry he pointed out that he heard the Praise Team play when he was here, and seeing the young members singing alongside the more experienced members would be an example of how he would seek to involve children. Also, washing dishes with adult members, assistant ministry, worship leaders, readers, Sunday School teachers, food servers, etc.

When asked what interested him about our congregation he replied that one thing was how the youngest to the oldest member is valued, and shown they are valued. He used the Praise Team as an example.

When asked what Sundays he would be available to preach he answered that he and his wife had talked over the position of pastor and he would be available every Sunday and Wednesdays in Lent, for confirmation, and so on. He also would love to be a part of The Ambassadors.

When asked about homebound members he stated that he is not available from 8 to 4 during school, since he works in the schools. He would get parishioners to help with visitation, but he knows that sometimes people want the pastor to visit and nobody else will do. He can also take emergency calls during the day.

When we asked about parishioners visiting and giving communion, Pastor Kaufmann said that would not be a problem.

We continued the meeting. We talked about a “worker priest” concept. In the “old world” the pastor did the ministry. It the new concept, the ministry is shared between the pastor and members.

We would need to employ JonPaul for at least 15 hours a week in order for him to be ordained. Also, a yearly wage of around $20,000 a year would be necessary to be ordained.

A called pastor, at 45 to 55 hours per week, would cost $70,000 a year. So a 1/3 time pastor would cost around $23,000 a year.

We showed Pastor Kaufmann the package that we would offer to a half-time pastor. We would pay $19,454 plus whatever monthly mileage would be incurred on visitations. This had been based on roughly 20 hours a week.

 We feel that having office hours is not important, but a time to meet with JonPaul could be set up by appointment at a place convenient to JonPaul and those requesting to meet with him. We would not need to pay for health insurance, but would need to pay for Social Security. For Social Security, we pay half and he pays half.

JonPaul would not be required to meet with the Synod for 4 days every year for the first 3 years, as is usually required for first call pastors, saving us and him that expense.

On agreement between us and JonPaul some of the money could go to pre-tax items such as an IRA.

If we were to offer JonPaul a contract, it could be long term or 1 year probationary. It was JonPaul’s wish that if we offered him a long term contract there would be a requirement that we schedule a yearly review of his and our feelings on how the ministry is going – what is working well and what is not working well.

The congregation will need to vote on hiring JonPaul at a Congregational Meeting called only for that purpose. We will follow our constitution as to the requirements for that meeting. Since JonPaul has preached at Pleasant Valley before, he does not need to be presented to the congregation at that meeting.

JonPaul and Pastor Kaufmann left so we could discuss hiring Jon Paul. Nola made a motion to offer JonPaul Dragseth an open-ended call with a yearly review. Aaron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JonPaul and Pastor Kaufmann returned and we offered him the call as the motion stated, pending congregational approval. We will have temple talks on September 13 and the 20 about the Congregational meeting to vote on calling him. The Congregational Meeting will be held on September 27, immediately after the service.

His ordination would be at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. That date has not been set.

His installation is set for November 1 at Pleasant Valley. Pastor Kaufmann will preach and after JonPaul is installed he will give communion. He does not need to wait until he is ordained to begin working at Pleasant Valley. He will preach here on September 27 at a supply pastor’s wage.

 Meeting adjourned at 8:06. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: JonPaul Dragseth, Pastor Greg Kaufmann, Nola Herzberg, Randy Sands, Aaron Sands, Corissa Sands, Kay Sands, Dave Vlcek, Kim Vlcek, John Poore, and Ruth Poore

**Treasurers’ Report**

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D June July August

Offering

$39,223.84 $3,727.00 $2,684.00 $4,280.12

Misc. Income

 $220.02 0.00 $0.00 $0.00

Expenses

$28,931.09 $4,354.89 $2,448.80 $3,518.79

Year to date the offering has exceeded expenses by $10,512.77

August mission offering collected for the Mondovi Food Pantry was $258.00

September mission offering will go to Theresa Enos

**Praise Team:**

In memory of Kay Syth, from Richard and Monica Bahr

In memory of Kim Hodges, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Ronnie Anderson, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

**Cemetery Association:**

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Richard and Monica Bahr

**Fund to be determined at a later date**

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Dan & Nola Herzberg

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Bill & Julie Schwennsen

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Brandon & Mel Sands

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from John & Ruth Poore

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Pastor Bill & Marilyn Wendt

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Steve & Steph Nelson

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Dave & Kim Vlcek

In memory of Bob Kuhn, from Jim & Joann Lehman

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**This month’s Mission Offering**

October Mission Offering - supplies for quilts to give to LWR and other places.

**Men's Ministry**

November 10th, Randy Sands, serving.

**Youth Ministry:**

Sunday school will take place on October 11 and 18th. Ruthann Knutson will be teaching.

**Choir**

The choir will practice on October 4 and 11, and before the service on October 18, when we will sing for special music.

**Parish Nursing**

Ruthann will be available to take blood pressures on October 25.

**Praise Team News**

The praise team will lead worship at Pleasant Valley and the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on Sunday, October 25. The group practices on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm and everyone is welcome.

**TEXTS AND READERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 4th**

Genesis 2:18-24 – *Monica Bahr*

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – 11th**

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 *Annabelle Vikingston*

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - 18th**

Isaiah 53:4-12 *Sharon Anderson*

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost - 25th**

Jeremiah 31:7-9 *Julie Schwennsen*

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

**Happy Birthday** to all who have an October Birthday!

\***FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, October 18th for the November 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

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

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**OCTOBER 2015**

**Reformation Day**

**Wear Red**

**Happy Halloween**