

Pastor's Corner, April, 2016 **The Season of Easter**

As this article is being printed, we are together celebrating Holy Week. Holy week is the culmination of our Lenten journey. For 6 weeks, we have gathered on Wednesday evenings, sang Holden Evening Prayer, and heard scripture, stories, and reflections on world hunger. These Wednesdays have again opened our eyes to the plight of the poor and hungry among us; from those who hunger for food to those who hunger for faith and righteousness. Together, we have raised money to give to ELCA World Hunger, Barnabas Coffee House, and the Community Table to give what God first gave to us that others might have food to fill their empty stomachs.

So too, we have been asked to reflect on how the things we do, and don't do, contribute to the hunger of others. In our own ways, all of us have let greed and apathy seep into our hearts and left our brothers and sisters hungry while we have more than enough. Lent drives us to ask God's forgiveness and turn us again out from ourselves to join in the Holy Spirit's work in the world.

During Holy week, we again hear and experience the life-giving, redemptive power of God in Jesus Christ for the sake of the world. Christ takes all of our hurts, all our sorrows, all our fear, all our doubts, all our neglect, and all our sin and brokenness and takes them to the cross. Christ bears them with him in his death and rises with them to new life. As Christ takes all of this world and our humanity into himself in dying, so too in rising. In this way, God redeems the whole of creation through Christ by the power of the Spirit.

While Easter Sunday is one day on the calendar, Easter is a season of the church year that spans 7 weeks; longer than the season of Lent! Throughout the Easter season, we will hear from the Gospel of John. We will hear how the disciples encountered the risen Christ. We will hear of Jesus' ascension. We will hear how Jesus promises the work of the Spirit will continue. We will hear again and again that regardless of who you are, what you have done, how many times you or someone else has told you that you don't measure up, Christ died for you. Christ redeems you. In Christ, you too are raised to new life, both now and in the Kingdom yet to come.

So too, we will hear from the New Testament book of Revelation. There are many who

believe that Revelation presents a timeline for the end of this world and the coming of God's Kingdom. Lots of money has been made from books and movies presenting this timeline in a fictional tale. Revelation is better understood as a series of cycles; beginning with sin and brokenness on Earth moving to God's action to redeem the world from that sin and brokenness. This cycle is told again and again, showing the reader that no matter how bad things get, God takes action on behalf of this world.

Revelation is an Easter story! Sin and brokenness have no power. Death has no power. In Christ, God has the final say about who you are, what you are, and whose you are. You belong to God. In Christ, you are raised to new life. You are raised to new life here and now, working alongside the Spirit for the sake of the world and raised in the Kingdom of God, where finally all sin and brokenness will be destroyed.

So come and worship with us! We are people of Revelation. We are Easter people. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God!

Pastor JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church **Council Minutes** Sunday, March 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 by President John Poore. Pastor JonPaul led us in devotion from Psalm 127 and a prayer.

NON-AGENDA

The Thrivent event, Walking Together, planned for March 12, will begin at 8:30 rather than 9 a.m.

REPORTS

The secretary's report was gone over. The treasurer's report was gone over. Some special payments were highlighted orally. We need small transparent or translucent bottles of juice to take to the prison for communion. Kay will get some 4 ounce bottles of apple juice for communion both at church and at the prison. The Pastor's report was gone over orally. We noted that the proceeds from the soup and sandwich free will offering will again go towards sending youth to Luther Park. The Lenten service offerings have,

in the past, gone to the church budget. After some discussion, Kay made a motion to take the Wednesday Lenten offerings and split it three ways: to ELCA World Hunger Relief, the Community Table, and The Barnabas Coffee House. Second by Ruth. Motion carried.

The confirmation class has finished studying the 10 Commandments. They will now start on the Lord's Prayer.

There was no Ambassadors' report. The potential campers need to get together with Corissa and set a time that they can attend Luther Park this summer.

Kim made a motion to accept all reports. Second by Nola. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Education – An Easter Egg Hunt will be held next Sunday, March 13, before Sunday School.

Building – The lights in the lift have been replaced with LED lights, taking the ballast out of play. The outside trim above the kitchenette window has not been fixed. The refrigerator in the kitchenette only works some of the time. Aaron will check on repairing the one we have. He will also research the cost of a 21 cubic foot replacement.

Worship – We will need a license to publicly air copyrighted music during a recorded service. It will cost around \$61. We could record just the sermon and post it to the internet with no license. There was a question as to whether YouTube limits the file size. Kim made a motion to start recording just sermons and put them on the internet to see how it works. Second by Kay. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastoral review – There were no concerns with Pastor JonPaul's time with us. There was a positive comment on the way he is working with the Praise Team to put together an Easter service. There was also a comment on every Sunday communion. It makes it possible for those that only can attend church on a Sunday School Sunday to commune. It also makes it possible for college students and visitors to have a chance to take communion. Roxie made a

motion to have communion every Sunday. Kim seconded the motion. Motion carried. We will be distributing bibles to our third graders and those that have not received bibles from the church. They include the following: Sarah Vikingson, Elijah, Isabella, and Tommy Knutson, Kyle Bahr, and Brennan Vanlandingham. Mission offering – March – Lori Mai – help with medical costs due to cancer.

April – Bob Anderson – needing a kidney transplant – kidney failure

OTHER

A new computer/wireless projector system has been priced. The package would cost about \$1,200 to \$1,300.

It was asked that we get the page numbers in the bulletin moved to the end of the line, after the song titles. Pastor will handle this.

Some of the shingles on the church roof are curling. Aaron will check on the cost of putting a steel roof on.

Steve Nelson, of Thrivent, would like to come to the next council meeting to update us on our Thrivent investments.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kay Sands. Second by Kim Vlcek. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 11:58 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Poore, Council Secretary
Members present: Pastor JonPaul Dragseth, Kim Vlcek, Kay Sands, Nola Herzberg, John Poore, Aaron Sands, Roxie Ulness, Ruth Poore

Treasurers' Report

This month's Mission Offering

April Recipient: Lori Mai to help with expenses due to cancer treatments.

Ambassadors

Meeting for Spring Revival planning: Sunday, April 3, 2016, following church.

Any Ambassadors interested in going to Luther Park Bible Camp this summer needs to contact Corissa Sands 715-287-4492 or at sands2002@hotmail.com.

Sunday school

The Sunday school will meet at 10:15 am on April 10 and April 17. Thanks to Kim Vlcek for teaching this month! The kids are working on a song to sing for the congregation in May.

Choir

The Pleasant Valley choir will practice on April 3, and before service on April 10. We will sing on April 10. This is a week earlier than our normal, as Ruthann will be gone on April 17. We will be singing, "Heaven Came Down."

Parish nursing

Ruthann will take blood pressures after church on April 10. Note that this is a change, as she will be gone on April 17.

Ruthann will be attending the Chippewa Valley parish nurse gathering on April 29 at Immanuel Lutheran in Strum.

Men's Ministry

April 9th

WELCA

Quilting has ended until this fall. There is 35 made for now. We made one quilt that we will take to the Dairyland conference gathering. Sadie is running for an office, Monica is going as the voting delegate to the Morning of Renewal at Norden Lutheran church on April 20th. Everyone is welcome let Sadie know soon.

The NW Synod of Wis. Convention will be April 29-30. Monica will go as the voting Delegate. Registration is due by April 13 for \$60.00 after that it will be \$70.00. It is at the Plaza Inn and Suites in Eau Claire. Monica has registration forms if any one wishes to go.

Sadie is collecting items for the health kits. There is a sheet in the fellowship room. There is a list on last page of this newsletter.

Stories of Faith

My Story of Faith

Monica's story

I was baptized here at Pleasant Valley and enjoyed my 12 years of Sunday school. My Godmother, Aunt June Sands, was one of my teachers. Her strong faith was evident, and it made an impression on me. In the 1960s, Pastor Hillesland taught our confirmation classes. Before we were confirmed, we were required to endure what was called catechization, where we had to sit on chairs in front of the church. We were asked questions about what we had learned, and we stood up to answer the questions.

I was in the original Ambassador group which went to New York City for the Lutheran youth gathering, with Pastor Ron Ryckmann and my mother as chaperons. We met in Madison Square Garden, and heard John Ylvisaker sing with his band, 15 years before he wrote, "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry".

I was married here the first time. After my divorce, my son Kent was born. I was uncomfortable about bringing him to Church to be baptized, and I thought maybe it should be private. But Pastor Ryckmann said no, that Kent would be welcomed into God's family and the family of Pleasant Valley. Just like what Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and forbid them not, for such is the kingdom of God."

I married the love of my life Richard Bahr and he took Kent and me into his life and family, "I Thank God for him every day". We had a beautiful baby girl for about one month before she went home to be with Jesus. Then we had our son Karl and now our son Karl's 2 boys attend Sunday school at Pleasant Valley!

I treasure the times spent with the church's women's groups; tying quilts, gathering items for Lutheran World Relief, preparing for the annual bazaar, and studying our monthly lessons. My Grandma Tena Sands was always involved, and encouraged that in me. She always told me that whenever I felt thankful for something, I should put a penny in the thank-offering box.

I will always be thankful to Pastor Biel, who opened my heart and mind even more to Jesus, so that my faith grew stronger and more mature.

I keep growing, listening, and learning in my faith. I guess we all do that always, each in our own way. Only with God's leading can we learn of God's love; a good place to start is to listen and believe.

I would have never guessed that someday I would be singing with a band! It has been a wonderful experience. It is a surprise to me that I go into a prison monthly and help lead worship with them. God is present with us as his Spirit leads us. The Praise Team is a wonderful group of people, and with their strong faith, they have helped me and all of us through life's ups and downs. We pray for each other and build each other up.

I am very thankful to be a part of the ministry at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church.

If you have a faith story to share, please contact Ruthann.

Happy Birthday to Jim Teigen on April 23rd. His address is: S11530 Cty Rd W, Eleva WI 54738, if you wish to send a card. Happy Birthday Jim!

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will lead worship at Pleasant Valley and the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on Sunday, April 24.

The group will be participating in Eleva Lutheran's 2nd Annual Jubilate Deo Spring Church Choral Festival on Sunday, April 17 at 6 pm. If you're interested in joining the band, contact any of the members, or just come to practice on a Thursday evening at 6:30.

TEXTS AND READERS FOR APRIL

Second Sunday of Easter – 3rd

Acts 5:27-32 *Roxie Ulness*
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter – 10th

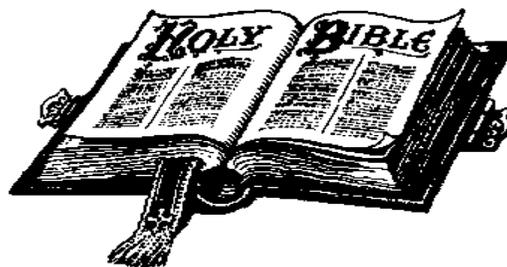
Acts 9:1-6[7-20] *Randy Sands*
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Fourth Sunday of Easter – 17th

Acts 9:36-43 *Corissa Sands*
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 24th

Acts 1:1-18 *Ruthann Knutson*
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35





IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

The family of George Martin - George's son, Keith, is one of Abigail's sponsors from Immanuel.

Joe Hoverson – healing, He had major back surgery he is now home

The family of Ali Ashouri – Pastor Wendt's Son-in-law, He has passed away

Marilyn Wendt – healing after hip replacement

Kathy Tweet – recovering from ankle surgery

Evelyn Mousel – recovering from surgery

Kim Hubbard - She was seriously injured in a car accident. Kim is Anita Vlcek's sister.

Christine Thompson – continues to struggle with lupus

Linda Ahlers – pray for healing, liver surgery; Lake City, MN (friend of the Poore's)

Al Ahlers – in need of healing, Linda's son

Joy Glende – struggling with health issues

Her Son Duane – having more tests done

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

Her son Jeremiah - also has Myotonic Dystrophy (Type 1). They reside in MN.

Our service men and women, including Alex

Bauer & Brendan Poore, deployed to Kuwait

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

This month's Mission offering - Lori Mai – cancer treatments – was postponed till April, because last month's offering went to Sarah (Wendt) Ashouri.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, April 17th for the May 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 no later than Wednesday afternoon.

I'll be printing them on Thursday evening.

Health Kits

8 items each

One Hand Towel

One Washcloth

One toothbrush

One comb (wide-Toothed)

One Metal nail File / Nail Clipper

Six Band-Aids (1/2" -3/4")

Direction: wrap items in towel & tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

For the 34 years I served as a parish pastor, I maintained a love/hate relationship with Easter.

I loved the Easter morning crowds, the aroma of Easter breakfasts, the energy of the musicians, the children in Easter finery, the drama leading in from Holy Week, and, the story.

I hated the pressure. The Easter sermon always seemed more important than that of any other Sunday. And yet, the pressure to say something more important than any other Sunday, was never a pleasant experience.

34 Easter Sermons. I can only remember one. How's that for a failure rate? Thousands of people heard me preach over those many years, and I wonder, how many of them remember a single word I said.

Since becoming a bishop, I've had two years off. Two years off of Easter that is. But this year, I have been invited to preach in one of our congregations on Easter morning. And, as I write this, 3 1/2 weeks out, I'm already beginning to fuss. On any other Sunday, I don't start fussing until a couple of days before.

Easter matters. And because it matters, I'd like to think my fussing is not about my own frailties and failings, but rather about my need to not mess this one thing up. This one thing: That God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him will never perish.

That message matters. And it matters not only for Easter preachers, but for every person we love (and don't love) that is a part of our lives. And because it matters, we who believe in God's love, are ALL preachers! I can't, and don't have to, do this alone. God has sent a veritable army of preachers into the world on every Easter morning. And me, I am just one, still, small voice. I like that. I like not having to carry the entire load on Easter morning. I like being a part of the church. An imperfect gathering of saints and sinners that fail more than most, but still, believe that God loved them enough to die and rise for them.

Maybe this year, I will love Easter, and leave the hate behind. 1 out of 35. That's not too bad.

Bishop Rick Hoyme,
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin -ELCA

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
W 2450 Cty. Rd. WW
Eleva WI 54738

“That all May come, Serving all the People of God”
Church office: 715-287-4473
Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742
Church E-mail: pleasantvalley@tcc.coop
Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.ccop

PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER
‘That all may come, Serving all the people of God’
APRIL 2016