

Pastor's Corner, December 2016

There's been a lot of talk in my family these last several years on what to do about Christmas presents. At one time, when we were children, mom and dad bought presents for each of us. As we grew older and became adults, we started doing a whole family exchange, where each person would buy presents for everyone else. As our family grew and more and more of us had children, the expense continued to grow and we tried other options. My parents and my siblings and spouses do a name drawing and buy for one other person. We have done homemade presents. We have drawn names as couples and exchanged couples gifts. But, as more children are added to the family and, again, the expense starts to grow, there have been suggestions about doing a kid's name drawing or adding the older kids to the name drawing with the adults.

My family, like many of your families, is caught in the tension between Christmas becoming the expense and consumerism of gift giving with the desire to give meaningful gifts to the people we love. For many of us, this tension is made worse by tight budgets. We feel pressured, within our families and within our culture, to spend far too much money that we don't have on expensive presents. I know some families that take on extra credit card debt that they spend all year paying off, just to get the new, cool toy.

This year we will hear the Christmas story told from the Gospel of Matthew. In this telling, King Herod hears that a "King of the Jews" has been born. The magi see the star and go to follow it. Herod tells them to report back. Following the star, they arrive at a manger, surrounded by animals, and a poor country family. Before this King they lay down their gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts are a reflection of the gift

of God to us; a savior who will redeem us from our sin.

Our own gift giving in this season is to also be a reflection of God's gift to us. As the redeemed people of God, we are free to live generously toward one another. We buy gifts; not to show how much money we have or how cool we are or how in touch with the culture we are. We buy gifts because we love and cherish the person to whom we give. We give gifts to show another person that we love them in the same way God loves all creation. We give gifts because we give from ourselves to another person, without any expectation of receiving something in return.

Gift giving can be a profound, beautiful way of showing another person what they mean to you, in the same way God demonstrates God's love to us in the gift of Jesus. So, it doesn't matter how much you spend. It doesn't matter if you buy it in a store, make it yourself, or gift something you already own. Take time, this season, to look outside of yourself to the wonderful people in your life. And give gifts; small tokens of your love for them. And receive again God's gift in Christ. May Christ fill your holiday season.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

### **Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

#### **Council Minutes**

Sunday, November

6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 by Vice President Nola Herzberg. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer.

NON-AGENDA – no guests

## **REPORTS**

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was shared. We collected \$356.00 for the Mission Offering for the Borks for flood relief. Pastor JonPaul's report was reviewed. There will be a Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 22, at 6:30. Two confirmands will be confirmed in May. Pastor will talk to the parents to decide on the date. Kasey Bahr is a third grader. Monica will pick up a bible to give him from the church. The minutes from the contract meeting was reviewed. Pastor JonPaul would like the proposed contract to be changed to read "15 hours per week, on average." He also clarified that his visitation is by request, number 1 to those in the hospital, number 2 to those that are sick. The rest of the visitation is up to volunteers from the congregation. We will have a meeting of the people that are willing to do visitations. Kay will pick up two communion kits to be used during visitations, if the volunteers wish. Kim will put an announcement in the newsletter and bulletins to ask for volunteers, and then we will set up a meeting date. The rest of the proposed contract was gone over. Pastor would like an additional day off and a cost of living raise. His housing may go up, which will not affect his bottom line salary.

There was no Ambassador's report.

A motion was made by Roxie to accept the reports. Second by Kay. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**EDUCATION** – There is still a need for teachers for January through May. The Christmas program will tentatively be presented on December 18. Nola will check with Corissa to see if she will do the program.

**PROPERTY** – The bulletin board in Pastor JonPaul's office will be removed, the holes will be spackled, and the office will be painted. Schwennsens hope to start the landscaping before the snow flies. Since the card for landscaping has a limited time to be used, Kim will check with Schwennsens and get the supplies needed.

The trim above the kitchenette window is on hold. Nola will check with Aaron to see if he has an extension ladder to fix it. She will also ask him about the spackling of the office.

**WORSHIP** – Pastor JonPaul will be gone on November 20. Kim will do the service.

**Bazaar** – We have 3 volunteers to be on a committee to discuss future bazaars. A meeting will be set. We now have an address to send the profits from the dinner. Those are going to the Buffalo County Flood Relief Fund.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Christmas schedule – December 18, children's program (tentatively)

December 24, candlelight service, 5:30

December 25, church with Praise Team, 9:00

Annual reports are due early in January. They need to be put together two weeks before the annual meeting on January 29.

Pastor JonPaul will update the website, including putting a picture of the church with the new roof and paint.

**Budget** – Since the WELCA has disbanded, we have no line item for the poinsettias and Easter lilies or the cards that are sent to shut-ins and college students. Roxie and Kim will check the numbers and decide on an amount to put in the budget for those projects.

As per the Synod Convention, the Synod has suggested that the list of active and inactive members be updated. We will put this on hold.

**Mission offering** – November – Hope Gospel Mission Meals Program  
December – (will be on Christmas Day) – The Strum Food Pantry or the Mondovi Food Pantry

We will put the prison guitar repair on hold until Kim has more information and perhaps have that as Mission Offering another month.

## **OTHER**

The list for sign-up for special music is not needed at this time. We need to be thinking about the list for graduates in May. Roxie will "play" the songs for next week's service, since Cathy will be at Sabylund with the Praise Team. Also, for a month we will try just

having Cathy play music during communion and not singing so that people may pray and "commune" silently with God during that time.

Next council meeting will be December 4, 2016, at 10:30. (This was not discussed at the meeting.)

There was a motion to adjourn from Ruth. Second by Kay. Motion carried.

The meeting closed at 11:49 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Poore, Council Secretary  
JonPaul Dragseth, Nola Herzberg, Roxie  
Ulness, Kim Vlcek, Kay Sands, Ruth Poore

### **Bazaar Report**

Basket Raffle – 17 baskets

Candy Tower – Julie Caldwell (14)

Candy – Barb Hokanson (29)

Bed & Bath – Kay Sands (30)

Boys Tub – Joe Hoverson (7)

Halloween – Joe Polkowski (7)

Girls Tub – Corissa Sands (9)

Birds – Kathy Dennis (12)

Baby Diaper Bag – Lori Danzinger (13)

Home Décor – Joan Timm (9)

Towel Basket – Mary Segarstrom (10)

Pet Bed – Randy Sands (22)

Bath – Ruthann Knutson (11)

Camping – Dave Vlcek (23)

Popcorn Packer – Christine Berger (11)

Tostito Packer – Jordy Sands (13)

Baby Basket – Crystal Sands (12)

Date Night – Michelle Komp (29)

### **Raffle**

1/2 Pig, donated by Steve Nelson, Thrivent  
Financial – Joe Knutson

1/2 Pig, donated by Sands Valley Farms –  
Julie Werlein

Quilt, donated by Sadie Odegard – Wayne  
Kralewski

Quilt, donated by Sadie Odegard – Leon  
Schretenthaler

Quilt, donated by Crystal Sands – Joe  
Knutson

Quilt donated by Crystal Sands – Randy  
Sands

Firewood, donated by John Poore – Gerri  
Sessions

### **Silent Auction**

Bird Feeder – donated by Greg Ulness –  
Julie Werlein - \$40.00

Picture & Frame donated by Karen Andre –  
Barb Hokanson - \$15.00

Picture donated by Karen Andre – Barb  
Hokanson - \$10.00

Case tractor quilt – donated by Sadie  
Odegard – Dave Vlcek - \$50.00

Prairie Sunset abstract – donated by  
Anthony Anchundo – Kim Vlcek - \$55.00

Blue Quilt – donated by Sadie Odegard –  
Julie Schwennsen - \$50.00

Yellow Quilt – donated by Sadie Odegard –  
Nola Herzberg - \$50.00

Turquoise Quilt – donated by Sadie Odegard  
– Bonnie Isaacson - \$55.00

Packer items – donation unknown – Crystal Sands - \$10.00

Nautical Set – donated by Ruthann Knutson – Crystal Sands - \$20.00

Puzzle – donated by Kathy Tweet – Monica Bahr - \$2.00

Puzzle – donated by Kathy Tweet – Kathy Dennis - \$2.00

2017 Calendar – donated by Sharon Anderson – Monica Bahr - \$10.00

Glass Snowman – donated by Kim Vlcek – Courtney Sands - \$30.00

Leather Elk – donated by Kathy Tweet – Rhonda Hoverson - \$10.00

**Treasurers' Report**

Summary of Offering and Expenses:

Y-T-D	August	September	October
Offering			
\$43489.33	\$3,226.00	\$3,252.89	\$4,733.00
Misc. Income			
\$4,375.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,065.73
Expenses			
\$38,509.71	\$3,608.08	\$3,243.33	\$4,877.92

Year to date the offering has exceeded expenses by \$9,355.37

July mission offering collected for Russ Sandley was \$237.00

August mission offering collected for Anna-Mobile Fund was \$276.00

September mission offering collected for Liam Loughney was \$224.89

October mission offering collected for Dan & Hannah Bork was \$356.00

**General Fund:**

In memory of Hjalmer & Minnie Erickson, from Dale & Avis Erickson

In memory of Norris & Gladys Tollefson, from Dale & Avis Erickson

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Avis Erickson & family

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Ron & Joann Tollefson

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Randy & Kay Sands

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Robert & Joann Radandt

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Sharon Vogler

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Dale & Sandra Hoch

In memory of Kenneth Rudolphson

**Building Fund:**

In memory of Donna Lund, from Larry & Crystal Sands

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Dave & Kim Vlcek

**New Roof:**

In memory of Kim Hodges, niece, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Ronald Anderson, nephew, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Gary & Irene Isaacson

In memory of Bob & Elaine Sands, parents,  
from Dave & Nancy Berger

### **Cemetery Association:**

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Robert &  
Marjorie Erickson

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Janet  
Andres

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Dave &  
Janice Erickson

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Jim &  
Janice Teigen

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Roger &  
Rita Linse

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Sandra  
Schuch

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Richard &  
Monica Bahr

In memory of Dale Erickson, from Evelyn  
Mousel

In memory of Dale Erickson, from John &  
Clarice Erickson, Mike, Emily, Liz & Matt, Jeff  
& Sarah, Kevin, Kim, Drew & Cole

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

### **Visiting Homebound Members**

We are looking for some volunteers  
to make occasional visits to members who  
are not able to attend church. This ministry  
helps care for all members of Pleasant Valley  
and lets them know they are an important  
part of our community. Contact Kim Vlcek if  
you are interested.

### **Bazaar Committee:**

Anyone interested in discussing the  
results of the bazaar and how we can  
improve it as a fundraiser, please let me  
know.

Also let me know if you would like to be on  
the committee for next year's bazaar.

John Poore - 715-878-4473

[poorerm@gmail.com](mailto:poorerm@gmail.com)

### **Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play during  
worship at Pleasant Valley on December 25.  
The group will also lead worship that  
evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional  
Treatment Facility. Practices are held on  
Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and  
everyone is welcome!

### **Christmas Caroling**

If you like to sing Christmas Carols,  
here is your chance! A group will gather at  
the church at 1 p.m. on Sunday, December  
11, and will leave from there to visit friends  
and neighbors who are homebound. Let  
Kim Vlcek know if you would like to  
participate and if you know of anyone who  
would like a visit.

### **W-ELCA**

Thank you to all who helped with the  
Thankoffering service. And a Special thanks  
for the contributions.

### **Sunday School**

We will gather at 10:30 after worship  
and a snack, in the church Sanctuary to  
begin.

Please sign up to teach on any Sunday.

They are meeting on every Sunday.

## **Ambassadors & Sunday School Christmas Program**

### **Children's Christmas Program Date and Schedule:**

**Practice:** Saturday, December 3, 2016 -  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Performance:** Sunday, December 4, 2016 -  
9:00 a.m. during church service

**Script:** Twas the Night of Jesus' Birth

### **Parish Nursing**

Ruthann will take blood pressures after  
church on December 4.

### **Happy Birthday** to Margaret Hazen

She Has Moved!

Margaret Hazen; River Pines; Room #A 242;  
206 North Wilson Drive; Altoona; Wisconsin;  
54720

### **Thank You Cards**

Thank you for supporting the Anna-  
Mobile! We couldn't have done it with you!

Thank you for your generous  
donation! The Zarins Family

THANK YOU for helping me get my  
Van! Anna  
(There is a picture of her on the bulletin  
board)

### **Pleasant Valley Friends,**

Thank you very much for the cross for Liam  
and the generous donation. We appreciate  
your kindness and prayers. Liam has been  
a very brave little boy. He has one more  
scheduled overnight chemo treatment and  
then his final scans and evaluations. Thank  
you again for your support.

Brian, Heather, Liam & Lilah Loughney

## **Stories of Faith**

Mark's story

I was born and raised in Almena, WI.  
I was the oldest of 5 children, and I have 3  
brothers and one sister. From the time we  
were old enough to walk, we seldom missed  
attending church at St. Matthew's Lutheran  
Church in Almena. We went to Sunday  
school, Vacation Bible School, and  
confirmation classes, which were all very  
important to our parents. We had religious  
habits, such as meal time prayers, instilled in  
us. I always knew "about" Jesus, but  
certainly, like many, I did not take the time  
to really get to know him.

Life went on, and my two children  
basically had the same religious upbringing  
that I had, which they continue with their  
families. They too knew about Jesus, and I  
guess I thought that was okay.

When my mother passed away, it  
raised some questions for God, and things  
were not clear to me. Looking back, I think I  
was taking God for granted, and still did not  
realize that I needed to know him.

Kim and I started attending Drammen  
Lutheran Church when Tanner was little,  
and Pastor Bill opened a few new doors for  
me and made worship comfortable. At  
Drammen, I heard the praise team, which  
eventually moved to Pleasant Valley, and we  
moved with them. Hearing the words of the  
songs that were sung helped me to finally  
make sense of all I had been taught in my  
younger life, and that had been lying  
dormant in adulthood. God's grace, love,  
and understanding took over the way I now  
viewed life, and gave me a glimpse of how  
amazing God is.

My family has been blessed to be a  
part of the life of the good people of  
Pleasant Valley, by Pastor Bill, Pastor Jason  
and now Pastor JonPaul, and we are blessed  
by our friends in the praise team. Now I can  
say that I do know Jesus – not just know  
about him – and that he has truly been good  
to me.

If you have a story to share,  
please see Ruthann.



## TEXTS AND READERS FOR DECEMBER

### **Second Sunday of Advent –4<sup>th</sup>** (Blue)

Isaiah 11:1-10      *Dan Herzberg*  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### **Third Sunday of Advent –11<sup>th</sup>** (Blue)

Isaiah 35:1-10      *Kim Vlcek*  
Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent –18<sup>th</sup>** (Blue)

Isaiah 7:10-16      *Monica Bahr*  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:18-25  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **Christmas Eve – 24<sup>th</sup>** (White)

Isaiah 62: 10-12      *Sharon Anderson*  
Titus 3:4-7

### **Christmas Day – 25<sup>th</sup>** (White)

Isaiah 9:2-7      *Kay Sands*  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

## IN NEED OF PRAYER

### Here is our Prayer Concern list:

**Joe Knutson** – Healing – good results with Doctors in Madison

**Jim Teigen** – recovering at home after being hospitalized

**Kathy Tweet** recovery from shoulder replacement surgery

**Cathy Winger** – healing after shoulder surgery

**Kasey Bahr** – healing broken wrist

**Clyde Sands** - healing broken wrist – gain full movement

**Liam Loughney**- who is receiving treatments for cancer, Kim Vlcek's cousin.

### **The inmates at CVCTF**

**Our service men and women, including Brendan Poore, deployed to Kuwait**

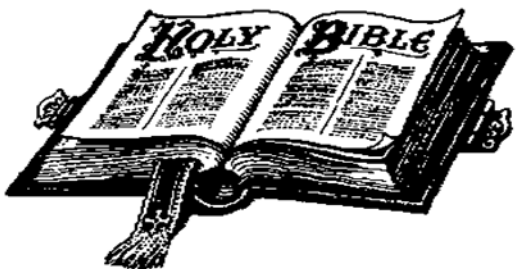
**This month's Mission Offering recipient is – The Strum Food Pantry or the Mondovi Food Pantry**

### FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for the January Newsletter.**

Call Monica Bahr - 715-287-4742,  
or E-mail: [dmbahr@tcc.coop](mailto:dmbahr@tcc.coop). Also, E-mail the church at: [plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop](mailto:plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop) with any bulletin or newsletter announcements, esp. prayer request and updates. Thanks.

Bulletin items due no later than Wednesday, I will print them on Thursday.



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

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

Pastor JonPaul Dragseth

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# **PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER**

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

## **DECEMBER 2016**

Children’s Christmas Program  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day  
New Year’s Eve