

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

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 –4th (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 –11th (Blue)

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent –18th (Blue)

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

Christmas Eve – 24th (White)

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

Christmas Day – 25th (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 18th for the January 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, 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