**Pastor’s Corner, March, 2016**

 *And Jesus said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure thyself.’” Luke 4:23.*

This passage comes from the story in Luke in which Jesus returns to his home town, enters the Temple, is handed the scroll from the prophet Isaiah, reads about the year of the Lord’s favor, and tells the people the scripture is fulfilled in him. Jesus quotes this old proverb as a way of saying that he is not in the world for himself, but for others; the “cure” that Jesus offers is for all those who suffer in this world. Hanging on the cross, one of the criminals will say something similar and Jesus will again insist that he is not in this world for his own glory, but that the glory of God may be known to us.

This old proverb that Jesus alluded to rings true today. In most professions, it is considered unethical, and sometimes even illegal, to provide services for yourself or your family. Doctors, for example, do not typically treat their own family. Surgeons don’t operate on relatives. Therapists don’t provide intervention for family members. Financial advisors don’t give inside information to those they love. This is good policy, for many reasons.

Primarily, though, it’s about relationships. When a family member becomes a patient or a client, it blurs the line between professional and personal. If you are your daughter’s doctor, what are you going to do when she doesn’t take your medical advice? Punish her? If you do, haven’t you crossed the line between doctor and parent. And what happens if you give financial advice to your uncle and they lose a lot of money? What will family events be like, then?

For these reasons, it’s best to keep some distance between our professional and personal lives.

And yet, the Church has been slow to honor this same view. We expect pastors to not only be husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers to their family, but also to be their pastor! When family attends church at the place where their loved one is pastor, their only true spiritual resource is their own family. Can your dad really give you good pastoral counseling about pressure to have pre-marital sex? Is your mother the best person to lay your heart bare to as you confess specific sins?

I love being your pastor. I love worshipping together with you. I love hearing stories of your faith. I love sitting with you as you confess sins and share great achievements in your lives. I love having the opportunity to teach your kids and grandkids about this faith we share. I love it.

But, I cannot be these things to my own family. I need to be their husband and their father, not their pastor. And, I want my family to have a pastor they can go to in order to share these same things that you are sharing with me, without having to worry about how it affects our personal, family relationships.

For this reason, on Palm Sunday, March 20th, at 9:30am, our daughter, Abigail Jo, will be baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. She will receive the promises of God in the waters of baptism by Pastor Jamie. And I will stand proudly next to Jessica as her husband and as Abigail’s father. This is an exciting time for our family and I am glad that Abigail will have another pastor in her life to share in her spiritual milestones.

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US!

There are lots of fun things happening here at Pleasant Valley on Palm Sunday and we would not want you to miss the opportunity to share in Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem with your sisters and brothers in faith. But, if you would like, we would be happy to welcome you at Immanuel Lutheran to share in Abigail’s baptism.

Abigail and Jessica will also be members with us at Pleasant Valley. Sometime during the Easter season, we will welcome them into our congregation as new members and celebrate the gift of life God give each of us in the waters of baptism. We look forward to celebrating with you.

This is an exciting time in the life of our family and the life of Pleasant Valley. We are happy to share this time with you.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes** February 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 by President Nola Herzberg. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer.

Pastor’s report was gone over. We are planning on giving bibles to the Knutson triplets and Kyle Bahr sometime after Easter. Pastor will check to see if Brennan has gotten a bible and Aaron will check to see if Sarah has gotten one.

We are going to send for “Holden Evening Prayer” to use during Lent. Kay will see if they will take the Thrivent Visa card for the purchase. Also, Pastor would like to have communion every Sunday during Lent.

At the suggestion of the Synod, Pastor JonPaul will write something about the recording of the services to post on our website. This will be posted in prominent places so the congregation will know about the process. It will also be placed in the bulletin and information about the recording will be in the newsletter. We plan on recording and posting the first service on Easter Sunday. The posting would then hopefully be done weekly with the week before taken off the website when the new one is posted. We would like to have one or more practice Sundays to make sure it goes well. Kim will check on this.

We set the following service times: Maundy Thursday, 6:30; Good Friday, 6:30; Easter breakfast, 7:30, Easter worship, 9:00

Pastor JonPaul would like to have a review of his ministry at the next council meeting. We were asked to bring any ideas or complaints to the next meeting.

Pastor suggested the Easter service be more traditional. So, the Praise Team will not be leading the service. (This was changed in a meeting the next week – The Praise Team and the pastor will be collaborating on the Easter service.) They will be leading a service at the prison on Good Friday afternoon and the evening of Easter Sunday.

**NON-AGENDA**

 We found we have at least 5 members of the congregation that are Thrivent members. Kay will see if she can get copies of the Thrivent sponsored program information to those members.

 Sadie has set up a quilt-making project in the church’s dining room. The quilters have tied 10 quilts. They will meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturdays from 9 to noon.

**REPORTS**

The secretary’s report was read. The treasurer’s report was read. The mission offering for Barnabas House was $270. We are in the black for the month by $558.

The Ambassadors will meet on Ash Wednesday at 5:45 to set up workers for the Lenten suppers and Easter breakfast. Corissa will be contacted to see if the Easter Egg Hunt can be held on March 13.

All reports were approved with a motion from John Poore. Second by Kim Vlcek. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

 Education – covered in Pastor’s and Ambassadors’ report.

 Building/property – Work on the steeple will begin in the spring. The estimate is $7,000.

 The Pastor’s chair is being reupholstered by the Career Development Center in Eau Claire.

 The fluorescent light in the lift is not working. The bulbs have been replaced and still do not work. As our fluorescent lights stop working, we will be replacing them with LED bulbs that go in the old fixtures. John will see if there is a rebate program through the power company to cover a part of the cost.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 Each member was appointed to a the following position on the council:

President – John Poore

Vice President – Nola Herzberg

Secretary – Ruth Poore

Treasurer – Roxie Ulness

Education – Kay Sands

Property – Aaron Sands

Worship – Kim Vlcek

 Motion from Nola Herzberg to accept all persons to their positions. Second by Kim Vlcek. Motion carried.

 Mission offering – February – Joe Knutson family

 March – Lori Mai family for costs due to Lori’s cancer (there will be a benefit at the Legion in Eleva on February 27)

 Pastor JonPaul will work on the details of the Palm Sunday/christening of Abigail service at Immanuel. (We will still be having a Palm Sunday service at Pleasant Valley.)The service will be placed on the sign in front of the church.

 Kim and I will work on organizing a file cabinet drawer so we have church information in a place where anyone can access it.

 Wine should be considered as the default during communion. Juice is supplied only if it is requested by a communicant.

 Kay will work on making a list of mission supplies. They will be housed in the Sunday School room and the ladies room off the Sunday School room.

 Aaron’s schedule makes snow plowing difficult. We will see if Mark Koser is able to plow snow at the church. John will talk to Mark.

Next meeting – March 6, 2016

Motion to adjourn was made by Ruth Poore. Second by Kay Sands and Nola Herzberg. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 12:44 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

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

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes-Special Meeting**

**Sunday, February 21, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by President John Poore. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer.

**NON-AGENDA**

 Sadie has had a request from someone to purchase one of the quilts that has been made. This was approved.

 Sadie and Corissa would like to put together a Women’s Luncheon in April, at the church. They will get a committee together to work on this. This was approved. The date and time will be in the newsletter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

We reviewed the following service times: Maundy Thursday, 6:30; Good Friday, 6:30; Easter breakfast, 7:30, Easter worship, 9:00. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 13 at 10:00, and led by the Ambassadors.

Roxie will get the palms for Palm Sunday. We will have a service at Pleasant Valley, led by the Praise Team. Pastor JonPaul has a call out to get a supply pastor, if needed. If he doesn’t get a response, Ruthi offered to give the message. The Praise Team can give communion, but not use the Pastor’s part of the liturgy. Pastor JonPaul and Jessica will be having Abigail baptized at Immanuel on that day. There will be information and an invitation to the baptism in the newsletter.

Pastor suggested the Easter service be more traditional, and include the traditional Easter songs. So, the Praise Team and Pastor JonPaul will be working together to combine a traditional liturgy with the music and traditional balloon drop from the Praise Team. John will ask Mark Koser if he plans on heading up the balloon drop with the Ambassadors. The Praise Team will also be leading a service at the prison on Good Friday afternoon and the evening of Easter Sunday.

This Wednesday, February 24, we will do a practice recording of the service.

After Easter we will accept Abigail Jo Dragseth as a new member at Pleasant Valley.

Ruthi has requested a new blood pressure cuff to use when taking members’ blood pressure. Kay made a motion to have her pick one up and give the receipt to Roxie, the treasurer. Nola seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor JonPaul asked if there was a fund to purchase a beverage for each confirmation student during confirmation classes. There is. He was told to present the receipts to Roxie.

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, Isabelle, and Tommy Knutson, Kyle Bahr, and Brennan VanLandingham.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kay Sands. Second by Nola Herzberg. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 10:50 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, Sadie Odegard, Corissa Sands, and Ruth Poore

**Men's Ministry**

March 12th

**Choir**

The choir will be taking the month of March off. We'll resume choir in April.

**Happy Birthday** to all who have a March birthday.

**Sunday school**

Sunday school will meet at 10:15 on March 6 and March 13. Thanks to Mark Koser who is teaching on March 6, and to Monica Bahr who is teaching on March 13. The Sunday school kids will be learning a fun song to sing together for a future church service!

**Parish Nurse**

Ruthann will be available to take blood pressures on Palm Sunday, March 20

**Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will lead worship at Pleasant Valley on Palm Sunday, March 20. The group will also play as part of the Easter Service at Pleasant Valley on March 27. Continuing their ministry at CVCTF, the Praise Team will lead worship on the afternoon of Good Friday, March 25; and the evening of Easter Sunday, March 27.

**W ELCA**

Quilting time is here again. Sadie has many quilts ready to be tied any afternoon, and Saturday morning at any time you are able, call Sadie and she will open up the church for you. There is plenty of yarn at Church for tying. We have about 29 finished.

**Ambassadors**

Please talk to Corissa Sands at 715-287-4492 or at sands2002@hotmail.com about being part of a women's presentation/luncheon in April 2016. Sadie Odegard and Corissa Sands want to have a mother/daughter or women's celebration and luncheon. We would love to have a committee to put together the luncheon and decide dates, programs, food, etc.

Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 10:15 - Easter Egg Hunt following church service.

Sunday, March 27, 2016 , at 7:30 - Easter Breakfast prepared and served by the Ambassadors

**Treasurers’ Report**

 None submitted

**This month’s Mission Offering**

March Recipient: Lori Mai

**Lenten Worship and Soup & Sandwich Supper**

5:30 pm - Soup and Sandwich

6:30 pm - Worship Service.

Please sign up to furnish soup and/or bars. The young people will be working. Thanks to Randy and Kay for making the Sandwiches.

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday – 9:00**

**Maundy Thursday – 6:30**

**Good Friday – 6:30**

**Easter Breakfast – 7:30**

**Easter Worship – 9:00**

**Stories of Faith**

**Art’s Story**

As most of you know, I volunteer at Sojourner House, where unhoused people can come in off the streets for a shower and a warm place to sleep. A client’s name was “Corey” and he was one of those gentlemen who had a rough life, as many do who end up homeless, and was an ex-con. Corey was a big man of faith, and he and I had some good discussions about faith. One day Corey disappeared. I had heard that he was alive, but never saw him again and I did not know what had happened to him.

6 months later I ran a marathon, and that evening I was scheduled for my turn at Sojourner’s. I was tired; and it looked like it was going to be a quiet night. The other volunteer told me that they could handle the shift if I wanted to go home early to my bed. I agreed, but before I left phone calls began asking if we had admitted a gentleman whose name I’ll say was “Gordon”. We assured the caller that there was no one there by that name. The police called, and Gordon’s daughter in FL called all looking for Gordon, she explained that Gordon was in the early stages of dementia and had wandered away from home. I assured her that if Gordon came to the shelter, we would notify both her and the police.

I then went to my car to drive home, exhausted, but concerned about Gordon. Where could he be? It was dark and cold outside, and there were many dangers in this city, with 2 rivers, traffic, and who-knows-what, which would make it unsafe for a person suffering with dementia to be alone outside. I planned on turning to go home, but something, or ‘Someone’, told me to turn in the opposite direction. My comfortable bed was beckoning me, but I had this nagging feeling that I, for some reason, needed to head to the LE Phillips Senior Center. So I turned the opposite way from where my tired body wanted to travel.

When I arrived at the Center I didn’t see anything, and I thought initially that I had come there for nothing. But again, that same ‘Someone’ told me to drive around to the back of the building. And huddled against the building in the dark, was the form of an elderly man. I got out of my car and walked towards him. He stood up and looked at me. I asked him, “Are you Gordon?” He said, “Yes. I am lost. I didn’t know what to do, or where to go.”

I told him that a lot of people were praying for him and his family was concerned about him, and that I would help him get home, but first I needed to call and let the police know that he was found. Gordon nodded. Before I could finish dialing 911, a large man stepped out of the shadows and asked, “Is everything alright here?” And there, in the darkness, on a cold night in the middle of a city of 60,000 people I saw a small glimpse of the tapestry God is weaving with each of our lives as an elderly man with dementia named Gordon, an ex-con named Corey, and a humble servant of the Most High God named Art, embraced.

It may seem at times that all is lost. We may live our lives as though it will be Good Friday forever. But Sunday is coming.

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

**TEXTS AND READERS FOR MARCH**

**Lenten Evening Worship – 2nd**

*Sadie Odegard*

**Fourth Sunday in Lent – 6th**

Joshua 5:9-12 *Dan Herzberg*

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Lenten Evening Worship – 9th**

*Kim Vlcek*

**Fifth Sunday in Lent – 13th**

Isaiah 43:16-21 *John Poore*

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b – 14

John 12:1-8

**Lenten Evening Worship – 16th**

*Kay Sands*

**Palm Sunday– 20th**

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a *Corissa Sands*

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14—23:5-11 or 23:1-49

**Maundy Thursday – 24th**

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10]11-14*Julie Schwennsen*

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday – 25th**

Isaiah 52:1—53:12*Sharon Anderson*

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:6-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1—19:42

**Easter Sunday – 27th**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6  *Monica Bahr*

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18



 **IN NEED OF PRAYER**

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Marilyn Wendt –**healing after hip replacement

**Kathy Tweet** – recovering from ankle surgery

**Mark Kuhn** – healing; he is Kay Sands brother

**Evelyn Mousel** – recovering from surgery

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

**Pete Wollum** –recovery from surgery

**Lenora Wollum** – fall fractured femur; married to Ruthi’s cousin

**Dale Erickson** – is at The Clairemont in Eau Claire.

**Kim Vlcek** - full recovery from shoulder surgery

**Christine Thompson** – continues to struggle with lupus

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

**Al Ahlers** –recovery from brain surgery

**Joy Glende** – struggling with health issues

**Duane Glende** – having testing done again

**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,** deployed to Kuwait

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

**This month’s Mission offering -** Lori Mai

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, March 20th for the April 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.**

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

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“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: plesantvalley@tcc.coop

Website: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.ccop](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.ccop)

**PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER**

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

**MARCH 2016**

**Palm Sunday**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Good Friday**

**Happy Easter!**

**Saint Patick’s Day**

**First Day of Spring!**

Daylight Saving Begins Turn Clocks ahead one hr. on the 13th