

Pastor's Corner, May, 2016

Mother's Day

Signed into law in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson, the second Sunday in May is designated as Mother's Day. This holiday has its early roots in a Church tradition called "Mothering Sunday," typically the Fourth Sunday in Lent, where a special service was held for mothers. Over time, this tradition faded and the practice we have today of buying flowers, candy, and cards and calling or seeing our mothers gained prominence.

As this holiday quickly approaches, we are reminded of the many mothers in the Bible. In Genesis, we hear of Eve, the first mother, whose children would populate the Earth. Abraham's wife, Sarah, remained patient and faithful to God, becoming a mother later in older age. Rebekah, too, was barren. She trusted in God and gave birth to Esau and Jacob. Jochebed, fearing for the safety of her child, placed the infant Moses into a basket and sent him down the river, hoping and trusting he would find safety. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, showed great faith and wisdom in bearing the prophet of the Lord. Mary, the mother of Jesus, trusted in God's plan and raised the Son of God into adulthood.

But, like all mothers, these mothers too had their share of heartbreak and disappointment. Eve, for her and her husband's disobedience, would be kicked out of the garden and one of her sons kills the other. Sarah, before having children of her own, watched her husband have a child with Hagar. Hagar herself, along with her son, Ishmael, get cast out and discarded once Sarah is pregnant. Elizabeth and Mary both see their sons executed by the religious and political authorities.

Being a mother is, at the same time, an incredibly joyous experience and terrifying one. It is filled with great successes and heartache and disappointment. Motherhood is unlike any other experience and is a life journey that can be extraordinarily fulfilling.

And yet, Mother's Day can be difficult time for many among us. Some continue to

grieve the death of their mother. Some among us grieve the death of their children. Some women had hoped to become mothers, but were unable. Some have experienced the loss of miscarriage. Some have been unable to find a partner to share parenthood with and have not had children. And, there are those among us, who choose not to have children and experience this holiday as a judgment on their choices.

So, we hold all this together; the joys, the sorrows, the loss, the grief, and circumstances of life and offer prayer to God. Whether we are mothers, are estranged from our mothers, have buried our mothers, still hope to one day become mothers, or are past the years where motherhood is no longer an option for us, it is Christ who holds us fast. Together, on Mother's Day, we will offer prayers of thanksgiving, praise, healing, and comfort to God for all the experiences we share surrounding motherhood. We will pray that God will continue to bless our congregation and world with faithful mothers and mother figures who raise up servants of Christ. We will pray that God continues to bless all the women of Pleasant Valley as they lead us in our faithful ministry in the world.

Thanks be to God for the women of Pleasant Valley!

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church **Council Minutes** Sunday, April 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 by President John Poore. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer.

NON-AGENDA

Steve Nelson joined us. He showed us how our investment portfolio is doing. He explained that our portfolio is now growing again and we could take some of the profits out if we needed to do so. We talked about the Thrivent card for "seed money" that can be applied for by members for some church functions. The cards need to be applied for 22 days before the event,

and full members can get 2 cards a year. Associate members can get one per year. Steve also told us about a meeting at the Roger Marten Community Center in Mondovi to talk about the current markets and how they affect your financial strategy. The meeting is April 14, at 6:30 p.m.

REPORTS

The secretary's report was gone over. The treasurer's report was gone over. Some special items were highlighted orally. The Mission Sunday offering to go to Sarah Ashouri after the loss if her husband was \$708.57. The Pastor's report was gone over. We talked about getting a wheel chair or walker for members and visitors that might make use of one. We will ask Ruthann about this. Kay and Roxie also may have access to such equipment. We also talked about perhaps not having communicants kneel at the railing. The confirmation class has finished studying the 10 Commandments. They will now start on the Lord's Prayer. Pastor is considering having confirmation class on Sunday, after church, on days when there is no council meeting. On April 10, after the signs are posted, the sermon will be recorded. Aaron will ask Annabelle to record it on her camera and they will post it on the website. We won't get a license for the recording of the whole service until we see how much the sermon recording is being viewed. Also, we need to schedule a good cleaning and decluttering of the church.

There was no Ambassadors' report. Kay made a motion to accept all reports. Second by Roxie. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Education – The potential campers need to get together with Corissa to set up the registration for Luther Park Camp. Three of the campers have chosen July 17th to the 22nd.

We have 3 graduates that will receive quilts; JD Freezy, Caitlin Herzberg, Kaitlyn Vanlandingham. We will celebrate the graduates on May 15. We have no information on VBS. Kay will talk to Corissa about a program. We have no students to be confirmed. The last day of Sunday School will be by May 15.

Building – We now have a new refrigerator in the kitchenette. There has been

no motion on the trim on the soffit, and we don't have a price on new roofing. We may want to ask Adolph Pichler if he wants to do the steeple and the roof. Or, we may ask Wittmer Builders if they want to do the roof – or both. The idea would be to do it all when we have the lift rented. Also, the outside of the basement walls need to be painted. This may be a project where we could use Thrivent funds.

Worship – covered in the Pastor's report

We will be distributing bibles to our third graders and those that have not received bibles from the church. They include the following: Kyle Bahr, Elijah, Isabella, and Tommy Knutson, and Brennan Vanlandingham. They will be distributed on May 8.

NEW BUSINESS

The Synod Assembly is Saturday, May 21. The Pastor will put an announcement in the bulletins.

Mission offering – April – Lori Mai – costs related to cancer

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

June – Sojourner House – to pay down a loan

Ruthann would like to reserve the church basement on July 3. It was approved.

I will get the e-mailing list from Monica, edit it, and send prayer requests to those folks, not to be passed on, but so those that wish to pray for them may do so.

OTHER

Upon doing taxes, Pastor JonPaul would like to allocate some of his salary to a housing allowance. Roxie will allocate \$890 a month, the cost of the Pastor's rent, to a housing allowance. The allocation will appear on the second payment of the month. Motion to do so was made and seconded, and carried.

Question as to whether there are guidelines for special music. There have been none in the past. Should it follow the texts or the main theme? Could we have special music during offering or communion? Pastor JonPaul will handle the special music and put a note in the newsletter.

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

Pastor JonPaul explained the use of an assistant minister to do prayers of the church. He explained the separation of the duties between the pastor/minister and the assistant pastor/minister. There has been a comment that a member would like Pastor JonPaul to do the prayers.

Also, there was one comment that the service went too long today.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ruth. Second by Kay Sands. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 12:25 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: Pastor JonPaul Dragseth, Kim Vlcek, Kay Sands, John Poore, Aaron Sands, Roxie Ulness, Ruth Poore, and Steve Nelson – from Thrivent

Sunday school

The Sunday school class will meet on May 8 and 15. On Mother's Day, May 8, the kids will present special music during church, and there are several students who will be receiving Bibles on this day. May 15 will be the last day of Sunday school until September. Ruthann will be teaching in May.

Parish nursing

Thank you to Kay Sands who donated a wheelchair to the church! This will be very beneficial for helping people to get around at Pleasant Valley Lutheran.

Ruthann will be taking blood pressures after church and before Sunday school on May 15. We have a new blood pressure cuff which is very easy to use. Please see Ruthann if you would like to learn how to use it!

Choir

The Pleasant Valley choir will be rehearsing after service on May 1 and May 8. We'll sing "Come, Holy Spirit" on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. Remember to wear red that day! The choir will be taking the summer off

Treasurers' Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	January	February	March
<u>Offering</u>			
\$14,628.44	\$4110.00	\$4,383.50	\$6,134.94
<u>Misc. Income</u>			
\$44.02	\$0.00	\$35.80	\$8.22
<u>Expenses</u>			
\$12,332.89	\$3,551.38	\$4,275.92	\$4,505.59

Year to date the offering has exceeded expenses by \$2,339.57

January mission offering collected for Barnabus Christian Coffee House was \$270.00

February mission offering collected for Joe Knutson family was \$426.00

March mission offering collected for Sarah and Asal Ashouri was \$708.57

Steeple Repair:

In memory of Robert Cleasby, from family of Robert Cleasby

Building Fund:

In honor of Phyllis Goff's 90th birthday, from Dale and Sharon Anderson

In memory of Ron Fender, from Ruthann Knutson

In memory of Harvey Hillesland, from Ruthann Knutson

In memory of Ali Ashouri, from Ruthann Knutson

In memory of Joseph Waley, from Ruthann Knutson

In memory of Gray Henricks, from Richard and Monica Bahr

In memory of Ali Ashouri, from Richard and Monica Bahr

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

This month's Mission Offering

Bob Anderson who is in need of a kidney transplant.

Ambassadors

No report submitted

Men's Ministry

May 14

W ELCA

Sadie was elected to the Mission growth on the board of the Dairyland conferences of the Women of the ELCA. At the Morning of renewal on Wednesday morning at Norden Lutheran church. Sadie Odegard, Kathy Tweet, Evelyn Mousel and Monica Bahr were in attendance.

The SWO Convention was in Eau Claire on April 29th and 30th Monica Bahr went as our delegate representative.

Happy Birthday

Joe Sands Jr. on May 18th.

Send card to:

Milestone Senior Living Apt. @207

5512 Renee Dr.

Eau Claire WI 54703

Praise Team News

The praise team will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on May 22 and 29. The group practices on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.--come join the fun!

Women's Retreat

"Nurturing Compassion" will be the topic of the Women of the ELCA Dairyland Conference retreat this year at Luther Park in Chetek. The event is scheduled from 2 pm on August 18 to 3 pm on August 19. Jason Clifton will be the guest speaker and worship leader. Registration is \$60 for both days and \$30 for just Friday. Contact Kim Vlcek at vlcekk@yahoo.com for more information. Check bulletin board for flyer. Flyer will also be in June or July newsletter.

Stories of Faith

Cathy's story

(That's Cathy-with-a-C Winger.)

My first encounter which I can recall with the word "Christian" was when I was a toddler. My father was watching an evangelist on television, and I heard the preacher mention the word Christian. I asked mom, "What is a Christian?" She told me that a Christian is like a person who is a little Christ, and if you consider yourself a Christian, then you pattern your life after Christ's life and the Bible.

As time went on, I noticed how others modeled Christ's life to me. My mother, TV preachers, people in Sunday school and church as well as others – all made an impact. I saw Jesus in them.

Through the years on my spiritual journey, I have read the entire Bible from cover to cover several times. Every time I gain new insights and learn something new. The main message that I receive from the Bible is this: Christians are imperfect people who are forgiven; therefore we need to be forgiving. I have also learned in my life experiences – the hard way – that there are people who call themselves Christians, but do not always live Christ-like lives. I have learned that sin tears people apart, and forgiveness heals and brings people back together.

And also, we need to remember that young people look up to the elders in the church. They hear what we are saying and they watch what we are doing.

I have some advice for young people. Although we can and should learn from others, we should not always look to people; rather we should look to Jesus, to see how to live. The most loving human being is not perfect, and will probably eventually disappoint you. Yes, you can learn from them, but the only One who will not let you down is Christ.

My wish is that we strive to truly all become little Christs.

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

TEXTS AND READERS FOR MAY

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 1st

Acts 16:9-15 *Larry Sands*

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23-29

Ascension of Our Lord – 8th

Acts 1:1-11 *Ruth Poore*

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Day of Pentecost – 15th

Acts 2:1-21 *Kim Vlcek*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-14[25-27]

The Holy Trinity – 22nd

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 *Annabelle Vikingston*

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Second Sunday after Pentecost – 29th

Memorial Day Sunday

1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43

Monica Bahr

Psalm 96:1-9

Galatians 1:1-12

Luke 7:1-10



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Connie – Randy Winger's sister in law – in need of healing from back surgery

Orvin Larson - is at Dove Health, room 2012. He is not doing well

Joe Hoverson – recovering at home

Joan Timm - recovering from Hospital stay

Joe Sands -recovering from fall

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

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.

Bob Anderson in need of a kidney transplant

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, May 15th for the June Newsletter.**

Call Monica Bahr - 715-287-4742,

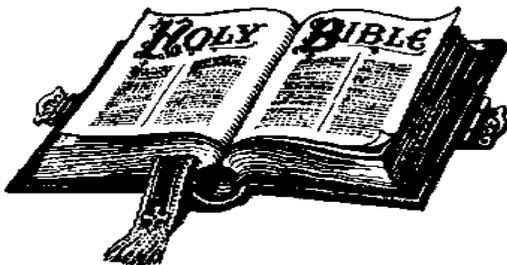
or E-mail: dmbahr@tcc.coop. Also, E-mail the church at: plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop

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.



Bring in items for:
Health Kits

5 items each

One Bath Towel
Bath size bar of soap
One toothbrush
One comb (wide-Toothed)
One Metal nail File / Nail Clipper

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

Bring in these items any time if you bring in a complete bundle place it on the piano in the coffee fellowship room.

What's New at Luther Park?

Reminder: The spring work retreat is scheduled for May 6th & 7th. We realize it is the beginning of fishing plus other events. Call camp (715-859-2215) or email Keith@lutherpark.org to let him know what day/time is most convenient for you or your congregation. All help is very much appreciated!!

Keith reports that three college age girls and three boys are still needed to fill out the summer counselor roster. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact camp or go online and complete an application.

Right now, 80 more campers are registered for summer camp compared with last year at the same time.

That is awesome!!

Luther Park is sponsoring a raffle and tickets are available for purchase. The names of those selling in our congregation will be announced soon. A beautiful quilt valued at \$1,000, two week-long camperships for 2017, or a two-foot-tall bear will be offered. All proceeds will go toward the ministry at Luther Park Bible Camp.

Camp Recharge Dates are: October 14-15, 2016; November 4-5, 2016; January 6-7, 2017;

March 3-4, 2017

Quilt Retreat Dates are: September 15-16, 2016; October 20-23, 2016; November 10-13, 2016;

February 2-5, 2017

Please also keep these dates in mind:

June 4 - Way Club Banquet

August 13 - Heart for Luther Park – to include silent auction, quilt auction, chicken dinner, and learn

the winner of the raffle PLUS purchase raffle tickets to win a pizza party hosted by Dave Dobbs (within 40 miles of Luther Park).

We are so thankful for the ministry at Luther Park, for the camp staff, volunteers, and summer staff, for parents/churches who send their children to camp, and for the lives that have been changed and will be changed after attending Luther Park Bible Camp. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Kay Moen-Urseth

Member of the Board of Directors

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
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Eleva WI 54738

"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"
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PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2016
Day of Pentecost
Happy Mother's Day
Holy Trinity Day