

Pastor's Corner, October 2016

One Year!

This month marks one year since your call committee met and, led by the Holy Spirit, discerned if a 33-year-old, with a pregnant wife, and who worked full-time as a physical therapist was to be your next pastor. This month marks one year since the people of Pleasant Valley, some who still longed for the days of Pr. Bill, some who were still sad to have seen Jason (now, Pr. Jason) leave, and some unsure if a bi-vocational model for pastoral ministry could work, met, prayed, and voted to call me as your pastor. This month marks one year since Jessica and I, giving thanks to God, accepted the call to Pleasant Valley. This month marks one year since people gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Eau Claire, and witnessed the Bishop lay hands on me, put a stole around my neck, and ordain me to the ministry of word and sacrament, officially marking the start of my journey as a pastor.

And, what a year it has been! The most joyful and frightening moments of Jessica and my marriage together have been this year as we witnessed the birth of our daughter and struggled with post-delivery complications. I finished a school-year with the Eau Claire School District as a physical therapist and have taken a new position with Mayo Clinic. Hopefully, before you read December's newsletter, Jessica and I will have purchased our first home and moved into the place we will raise our family. God is good.

As a congregation, God has been at work among us and continues to make Pleasant Valley thrive. It has been such an honor to journey alongside such generous people. From gifts of welcome to us to mission offerings to quilts and school supplies, the people of Pleasant Valley give generously. It is a spiritual gift, and one that we have all embraced together. We have put on a new roof and invested in the way our sanctuary looks and how we do worship. We have tried

new things, some of which have become a part of who we are and some we have left behind. 134 years ago, a small group of Christians gathered and decided to build a church. Today, Pleasant Valley stands strong, not just in the structure of the building, but the Body of Christ that continues to gather within its walls. I truly feel blessed to stand among the faithful of Pleasant Valley to preach, lead worship, administer the sacraments, and share in your lives. It is an honor to stand in the line of history stretching from Pr. Helsem in 1881 to today.

This bi-vocational life can be a challenge; to balance my work as a therapist with my call as a pastor. It is an experiment we continue to work through together. From time to time, things get missed and I am not as present as some may wish that I was. But, we take this journey together; you and me, young and old; all of us. Together, we stay grounded in Christ, trusting that as God led those first members of Pleasant Valley, so God continues to lead us today.

This month marks one year. May God bless us with many, many more together. Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Sunday, September 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 by President John Poore. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer.

NON-AGENDA – no guests

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was shared. Expenses exceeded income again this month. S & H LLC has been paid in full for the new roof. Best

Buy has been paid for the video system. We collected \$276 for the Mission Offering toward Anna Zarin's transport. Pastor JonPaul shared his report. Confirmation will start in September, probably on September 12, a week from Monday. Pastor JonPaul will contact the confirmands and their families to work out a good time to hold confirmation. It was asked if Pastor could list the members that can't make it to church that he visits so we can make sure that all 5 are getting what they need from the church. He agreed to do that. We need to get Margaret Hazen's new address into the newsletter so she receives her mail from members. We will dedicate the roof on September 18. Thinking ahead, a Thanksgiving service will be held on November 22. Also, Pastor JonPaul's one-year anniversary with us will be on October 1.

There was no Ambassador's report.

A motion was made by Nola to accept the reports. Second by Kim. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

EDUCATION – Sunday School will begin next week. Jessica Dragseth will be teaching September 11 and 18. There will be a sign-up sheet for teachers for the rest of the year. Sunday School will be held every Sunday. One table needs to be lowered for smaller students. Kay will bring the chairs stored in their shed.

PROPERTY – The paint for the outside walls of the basement has been chosen and there are some blocks painted as a sample. Kay again spoke with the council members that own Thrivent options and made plans to apply for Thrivent Seed Money to complete these projects. Kim has received the Thrivent funds that will help pay for the landscaping. Kay has applied for the Thrivent funds that will help

pay for the food for the bazaar dinner. Aaron will apply for a card that will help pay for the paint supplies for the office and the outside basement blocks. John Poore and perhaps Greg Ulness will get the blocks pressure washed and we will plan on painting on the 17th, weather permitting.

Pastor JonPaul has asked to have the bulletin board removed from his office. Also, there is some spackling to be done on the walls, and the walls need a new coat of paint. That will also be done when the basement walls are done. Schwennsens will be able to do the landscaping after the blocks are painted.

The trim above the kitchenette window is on hold.

WORSHIP – The TV has been installed and works well. Thanks, Kim. Ruth will contact TCC to see if there is a way to increase the speed of our internet Wi-Fi so we can use lessons from the internet for Sunday School. We received a \$65 gift card from Best buy. We will see if we need anything else for the video system.

Pastor JonPaul's contract will be reviewed to be renewed at the Annual Meeting. There is some question as to some parts of the contract, such as vacation days, applying to his anniversary date or the renewal date.

The Praise Team plans on playing at The Barnabas Coffee House in Chippewa Falls on October 22. They will be going to Sabylund Lutheran Church on November 13 to participate in the worship service. Cathy Winger will be going with them.

Bazaar – Next week we will have a booth at Cleghorn Fest advertising the bazaar and selling tickets. Ruth will get the tickets printed. We reviewed the tickets to see that they were

correct. We have a half pig donated by Steve Nelson, cut, wrapped, and frozen; a face cord of oak firewood donated by John Poore, and, perhaps, other items. We have also added another half pig donated by Sands Valley Farms, cut wrapped, and frozen. At this point we don't know how many quilts will be raffled off. Vinyl banners have been made to advertise the bazaar.

A member of the congregation has asked about the decision of donating the proceeds from the bazaar to a cause – in this case, the Buffalo County flood relief. It was the general consensus that not all of the proceeds from the bazaar go to a mission offering or a charitable cause. After some discussion, Aaron made a motion that just the profits from the dinner go to the Buffalo County Flood Relief, which has a fund at the Alliance Bank in Mondovi. Second by Kim. Motion carried.

Roxie will check with Corissa to see if she will again make the flyers advertising the bazaar. We need the flyers by next Saturday, September 10, for Cleghorn Fest.

We have borrowed one grill to do the chicken for the past 3 years from Dave Emerson. Roxie made a motion to give him a \$25 gift card from Pammy K's as a thank you. Second by Nola. Motion carried.

Roxie will handle getting people to help make lefse for the bazaar. We usually make it the Thursday and Friday before the bazaar; this year, September 29 and 30. There was a question as to whether it could be done the weekend before, since we have a shortage of volunteers that don't work during the week.

The church service will start at 10 a.m. on the day of the bazaar; October 2. The Eleva Bell Choir will be with us for the service, playing up

to 6 selections. Pastor JonPaul will contact Chris Tuura to make a plan. The Dunn-4 Barbershop Quartet will perform during the meal.

NEW BUSINESS

A member of the congregation has questioned the value of sending the Church Secretary to the Soul Support gathering every year. Several members felt the gathering was beneficial. The council discussed a standardized process for requesting funds to attend conferences. It was decided that anyone wanting to attend a conference should submit the request to Roxie prior to submitting payment and the request will be considered at the next council meeting. A motion was made by Kay to send our secretary and a guest to Soul Support, paying the secretary's entrance fee and half of guest's, with feedback coming from the attendees after the gathering. The feedback can be in the form of a Temple Talk or a short article in the newsletter. Second from Kim. Motion carried.

Mission offering: September – Liam Loughney - He is the grandson of Kim Vlcek's cousin. Liam is 3 years old and has cancer.

October – Dan and Hannah Bork - lost their house in the flood - They lived in Cream.

November – Hope Gospel Mission Meals Program

Next council meeting will be October 9, 2016, at 10:30.

A motion and second to adjourn were made by and Kay and Aaron. Motion carried.

The meeting closed at 12:08 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

JonPaul Dragseth, Roxie Ulness, Kim Vlcek, Aaron Sands, Nola Herzberg, Kay Sands, John Poore, Ruth Poore

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play at the Barnabas Coffeehouse in Chippewa Falls on Saturday, October 22, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The group will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on October 23 and 30, and will lead worship for the men at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility during the evening of those dates. Join the team for practices every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Mission Offering Recipient

Dan & Hannah Bork, who lost their home in recent flooding.

W ELCA

On October 12 the Dairyland Conference is meeting at Pleasant Valley. Registration begins at 12:30 and the meeting goes until 3. We need volunteers to supply bars or cookies, to serve the treats and coffee, and someone to run the lift during the gathering. If you could help supply treats, serve, help plan the day, or serve in any other way. Please contact Sadie Odegard at 715-287-4651. Thanks!

BAZAAR

Items needed for the bazaar on October 2 - Baskets for raffle, silent auction items, crafts, bake sale items and cakes for the cake walk. There will be a limit of 12 cakes for the cake walk so contact Roxie if you plan on bringing one.

Sunday School

At 10:30 after snack and worship

Parish Nursing

Ruthann will take blood pressures on the 4th Sunday of October during the coffee hour after church.

Stories of Faith

We hear the phrase, "random acts of kindness" from time to time in our culture. It is definitely a wonderful way to share the gospel without preaching!

One day I asked on Facebook if anyone had examples of random acts of kindness, whether they were the receivers or the givers. Here are some examples I received.

-A teacher was at Subway and noticed one of the students could not eat with his friends because he had no money. The teacher bought the student a sub.

-A certain church secretary was in the waiting room of a doctor's office and overheard a lady calling churches in the area, asking for help with her rent. This month she had been injured and unable to work. Once she was in the examination room, the church secretary gave the nurse \$20 to give to the lady.

-A gentleman was eating lunch at a restaurant and saw a family who had various injuries, indicating that they had been in some type of vehicle accident together. He discretely gave the dad a \$100 bill that he keeps just for this purpose.

-A woman found an injured, frightened rabbit in the street. She took the rabbit to the vet, but the rabbit died. The woman paid for the vet's services.

-A person pays for the coffee of a stranger behind them at Starbucks.

-A church takes up a mission offering, wanting to bless a family whom they have never met.

Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me."

Our loving and gracious God, please open our hearts to see those who need a touch from you, whether it is money, or a quilt, or a hug, or a card of encouragement. Give me your eyes. Amen.

If you have a faith story to share, or a testimony of your spiritual journey, and/or a short story about Christmas (we need several!) please contact Ruthann.

Thank You Cards

none

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, October 23rd for the November 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.



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Dan Petschow (from Praise Team) has been diagnosed with Lyme's Disease

Steve Glende – recovery for, (Kathy Tweet's Son-in-law), has been hospitalized, he is home now. Has pneumonia and other complications.

Cathy Winger – healing after shoulder surgery

Evelyn Mousel – healing after hand surgery

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 recipients are Dan & Hannah Bork, who lost their home in recent flooding.

TEXTS AND READERS FOR OCTOBER

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – 2ND

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 *Monica Bahr*

Psalm 34:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - 9th

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c *Annabelle McAleer*

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost - 16th

Genesis 32:22-31

Sharon Anderson

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost - 23rd

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Julie Schwennsen

Psalm 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Reformation Sunday - 30th

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Randy Sands

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
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“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’

OCTOBER 2016

Reformation Day 30th

Happy Halloween

