

Pastor's Corner, April 2017

Each Wednesday in Lent, we gather as a congregation to eat together and worship together. Like last year, we are using Holden Evening Prayer for our worship. If you aren't familiar and haven't joined us yet, Holden Evening Prayer is a beautiful, sung service in which we give thanks to God for God's work of salvation in Jesus Christ. We sing Mary's song of praise to God when she learns she will bear the Christ. We sing our confession, asking that our prayer "rise up like incense before you." And we sing in prayer, "God of mercy, hold us in love."

As part of our worship, we hear a brief reflection on our theme for this year: Praising God with Our Whole Bodies; a series adapted from a series written by Rolf Jacobson at Luther Seminary. You may have heard me explain this year's theme during our services on Wednesday, but I wanted to share this with all of you.

We all experience God in different ways. For me, I experience God in a heady or academic way. When I study the Bible, when I read, when I reflect on the text as I prepare to write a sermon, I feel the presence of God. This is my primary way of giving praise to God; through deliberate thought and reflection. This is where I excelled in seminary, as well; writing papers, writing sermons, understanding the interplay between theology and worship—all very "heady" exercises.

But many of us experience God differently. Some praise God with their mouths in how they speak, sharing the Good News with others in word or song. Some with their ears as they listen for God in the stories others share. Some with their hands as they do their work in the world, serving others in their job and in their free-time. Some on our knees, quietly communing with God through prayer, and Some with our feet as we move our bodies, feeling the Spirit around us.

Whether your primary experience of God in Jesus Christ is through your head, your mouth, your ears, your hands, your knees, or your feet, we come and worship together. It is part of what makes us a congregation; many people, with many different experiences, with a variety of backgrounds, who worship God together. No matter how you experience the Risen Jesus or how you prefer to praise God, there is a place for you at Pleasant Valley.

So join us for worship some Wednesday this Lent. The soup is excellent, the singing is beautiful, and together we hear how God is praised with our mouth, ears, hands, knees, and feet.

Peace,
Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church **Council Minutes**

Sunday, March 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 by President Kay Sands.

NON-AGENDA – Corissa Sands

Corissa asked for confirmation that we will have two services on April 16, Easter Sunday. Yes, we will have two. The sunrise service will begin at 6:45 a.m., followed by a 7:30 to 8:50 a.m. breakfast, and a 9 a.m. second service with the Praise Team leading the music.

Corissa went over the following plans for the Ambassadors for the Easter season: two volunteers for each soup and sandwich supper; an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, April 9, at 10:30 a.m. as part of Sunday School, hopefully in Olson Park; and the Easter breakfast. She also highlighted the menu for the breakfast.

Corissa went over the Ambassadors' report. The Ambassadors met on March 4 at 8:30 for breakfast and to organize the year of activities. At the meeting they listed the possible campers and talked about the upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, in 2018. Corissa will check to see if there are youth interested in attending the Gathering.

While Corissa was there we talked about sponsoring a camping scholarship program to send non-members in the community to Luther Park. The youth that would be chosen would have a letter sent to their parents telling about the camping program and the scholarship program.

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. In January we collected \$316.00 for the Mission Offering for Chippewa Valley Free Clinic. The lift charges have been paid.

The Pastor's report was read by the council. Kay has ordered 3 communion kits that will be labeled to be checked out by the visiting teams.

We have 2 students that will be confirmed on May 21; Teagan Erickson and Brennan VanLandingham. Roxie will order a confirmation cake for coffee. At our June 2 council meeting we will read reports from the confirmands. The last day for Sunday School will be May 14.

The Ambassadors' report was presented earlier.

John made a motion to approve the reports. Second by Aaron and Dale. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

EDUCATION – We have a sign-up sheet in the fellowship room for volunteers to teach Sunday School. At this point we don't know if we have any youth that would be able to attend a VBS program. Aaron will contact Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire to find out if we could join them for VBS if we have any interested youth.

PROPERTY – Pastor JonPaul's office has been updated.

The landscaping supplies have been bought and are waiting for spring to be put in.

The trim above the kitchenette window is on hold until spring. Aaron will be able to get an extension ladder to do the repair.

The ceiling fan nearest the balcony needs to be repaired. Mark will supply a lift to take care of that. He would like to have at least 1 fan, and maybe 3, available when he brings the lift so the fan(s) can be replaced if it (they) cannot be fixed. The projector screen will be removed at the same time. We questioned if Thrivent seed money could be used for the fan project.

WORSHIP – We have no protocol on the books of whom to contact in the Pastor's absence or in case of emergency. We are to call Pastor JonPaul if we need an emergency fill-in or, in case of his illness, JonPaul will get his own substitute.

Pastor JonPaul's contract is set. It needs to be signed.

Pastor JonPaul updated the website. He will change the picture of the church to a picture that shows the handicapped access.

NEW BUSINESS

The new council members' positions are set. Aaron will take the place of education council member.

There was a motion made to use the Lenten offerings towards scholarships to Luther Park by John. Second by Dale. Motion carried.

The meeting for Thrivent members has been held. We may have another one during the soup and sandwich suppers to brainstorm projects we can do using our Seed Money.

Mission offering:

March – Parr family – home fire – Altoona

April – Habitat for Humanity – we have bulletin inserts or flyers to highlight the things they do.

May – Luther Park

June –

July –

August – Mondovi Weekend Backpacks

September – Eleva/Strum Weekend Backpacks

OTHER

We have no first communicants this year.

Pastor will check cost per member with the Synod and update the count of members. The Synod has us at 179 members, while we have a more accurate count at 77.

We received a postcard from the phone company offering a back-up battery plan in case of power outage. We feel that it's not needed in our situation.

We received a letter of rezoning. No action will be taken on this.

Ruth will get the Easter lilies. Roxie will get the palms.

We mentioned, in passing, a Walking Together event on March 18.

Next council meeting will be April 2, 2017, at 10:30.

Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dale. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 11:57 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: Kay Sands, Pastor JonPaul, Roxie Ulness, Dale Anderson, Aaron Sands, John Poore, Ruth Poore, Corissa Sands

Treasurers' Report

None submitted

Thank You Cards

PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH

Thank you for your generous donations of \$272.00 and \$25.00 to the Mondovi Area Food Pantry.

Your support and cooperation is always greatly appreciated.

Our visitors appreciate all of the quilts that you have donated.

May God continue to Bless your Congregation.

Gary Preston

Mondovi Food Pantry

Dear Saints of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

By the time you read this, one major event in our synod will have been completed and the next one will be just around the corner. The completed one will be "Walking Together" when 400+ folks will have gathered to learn, to laugh and to walk together toward a new future. The "around the corner" event will be our annual Synod Assembly in April. But, both events will be tied together by the theme: "**BOLDLY Invite...ONE More!** With the symbol of a big RED door, emblazoned with Luther's seal, we will be challenged to get the word out about Jesus!

But, here's the Easter connection. When we were picking a theme verse for the events the verse we chose was from Mark 16:15. In this verse, Jesus says "Go into all the world.." And, seemingly, the women and even some men did just that!

As we were picking this verse, we also were laughing, because it comes from what is called "The Longer Ending of Mark." The ending of Mark that is from the oldest manuscripts says this, "So they (the women) went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; *and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*"

I often refer to this last verse as the "Lutheran Ending" of the gospel of Mark. "They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

We are Lutheran, and we need no longer be afraid! We live in a culture where our neighbors are hungry for good news, they are hungry for life, and they are hungry for love. Our churches can give them all of those things. The day is over when we can silently leave the empty tomb at Easter and tell no one. So this is my Easter challenge to every one of you who takes the time to read these words: "**BOLDY invite...ONE more!**

This year, before Easter, you, and every - one in your family, invite



one person to _____ come and worship with you. If you have family who live somewhere else, but who do not have a church, encourage them..." I sure hope you can find a church for this Sunday!" **Be BOLD.** What's the worst that can happen? Let the *amazement* overcome the *fear*.

We have the amazing privilege of getting up on that Sunday morning and worshipping the God of Easter! I for one will make sure I share that with not just one person, but I commit to sharing it with everyone that will give me the opportunity. What's the worst that can happen????

BOLDLY, Invite...ONE More!

Bishop Rick Hoyme
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA

WELCA

Dairyland Conference Morning of Renewal, at Immanuel Lutheran, Strum will be on Wednesday, the 19th of April. Coffee and registration is at 8:30, meeting at 9:30 with noon lunch, \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door.

The Dairyland conference is looking for someone interested in the Co-coordinator, treasurer, and stewardship offices. If interested in serving in one office or in attending, let Sadie know. Sadie's term of office is done. Monica will go as our delegate. See signup sheet on bulletin board.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on April 14, 23 and 30. The group will also play in worship at Pleasant Valley on April 16, 23 and 30. It's going to be a busy month!!

Confirmation

Classes are after worship on Sundays. Confirmation will be May 21st.

Sunday School

Please sign up for teaching, there are a few spots still open the last Sunday will be May 14th.

Parish Nursing

Ruthann will be attending the next Chippewa Valley Parish Nurse gathering in April.

Please see Ruthann after Sunday morning services whenever you would like to have your blood pressure taken

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Jim Teigen on April 23rd. If you wish to send him a card, send to: S11530 Cty Rd W, Eleva, WI 54738
Happy Birthday Jim!

Stories of Faith

Faith Stories - Brother Damien Joseph

When Brother Damien grew up in Berwick, Pennsylvania, his name was Brent David Richards. He graduated from Berwick Area High School, and then studied liberal arts at Pennsylvania State University. He was married and divorced, and has a son and granddaughter who live in Pennsylvania.

Brother Damien also studied counseling at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, and is currently a Divinity Student Gordon-

Conwell Theological Seminary. Brother Damien wished to live a life of service to the poor and homeless, and eventually he became a novice Episcopalian brother at the San Damiano Friary in the Society of St. Francis, Province of the Americas in San Francisco. He was given a new name, and he has taken vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Brother Damien's ministry to homeless people melts my heart. Since November of 2015, I have been sending money, personal care items, and quilts to Brother Damien to distribute to those living on the streets. He uses the money to take homeless people to a restaurant, to eat with them, spend time with them, and hear their stories. He then gives out the personal care items, normally packaged in a cloth bag, and/or a quilt. He is very appreciative of anything he receives and always prays that the right people receive what they need.

Many of San Francisco's homeless people actually have jobs, but can no longer afford the high cost of living there. Rent has tripled in the last couple of years. Some have no families to help them, and cannot afford to travel home if they do. Some families have abandoned these people for various reasons, such as their ties with the LGBTQ community, or addictions, or mental illness, all people, who are adored by a loving and gracious and healing God. Thank God for people like Brother Damien who go out to the highways and byways to bring the good news of Christ's love to the least of these.

Last year, the quilters of Pleasant Valley provided 25 quilts to send to Brother Damien, usually 5 at a time. So far this quilting season, an additional 5 quilts have been sent. Initially when I mailed the boxes of items to Brother Damien, each box cost between \$50 and \$75 to mail. I thought it was money well-spent. But

I do want to be a good steward of my resources. A few months ago, the manager of Festival Foods told me about the "Library Rate" which can be used for mailing packages to or from a not-for-profit address, which fits with the San Damiano Friary. So now these boxes only cost around \$15 to send. It takes a little longer (about a week) to arrive, but it frees up money that can be sent for meals and supplies.

Thank you to the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, for your generosity and for your empathy for those less fortunate. Thank you for listening to Jesus when he said in Matthew 25, "for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me."

And thank you to Brother Damien, who takes the phrase, "God's work, our hands" to heart!

If you have a faith story to share, please see Ruthann, or e mail your story to RuthiK6@gmail.com.

TEXTS AND READERS FOR April

Fifth Sunday in Lent – 2nd (Purple)

Roxie Ulness

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Lent Evening – 5th (Purple)

Corissa Sands

Isaiah 52:7-12

Psalm 121

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Mark 1:16-20

Palm Sunday – 6th (Red)

Randy Sands

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14–27:66

Maundy Thursday Evening- 13th (Red)

Julie Schwensen

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

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday – Evening – 14th (Black)

Sharon Anderson

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1–19:42

Easter Sunday – 16th (Gold)

Monica Bahr

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter – 23rd (White)

Ruth Poore

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter – 30th (White)

Ruthann Knutson

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35





IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Tracie – Pastor JonPaul’s sister – healing; had surgery for broken hip from a fall

Linda Ahlers – pray for healing, doing Chemo again, Lake City, MN (friend of the Poore’s)

Bev (Timm) Debusman – losing her battle with cancer, at River Pine nursing home

Joe Knutson - healing

Robert Timm – healing

Kathy Tweet - healing

Joy Glende – carries baby to term, She is in bed rest at Rochester Hospital

Liam Loughney – For good checkups and test results, Kim Vlcek’s cousin.

The inmates at CVCTF

Our service men and women, including

Brendan Poore, deployed to Iraq

This month’s Mission offering recipient:

Habitat for Humanity

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, April 23rd for the May 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

Tuesday, I will print them on Thursday.

EASTER SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 PM

SUNRISE WORSHIP 6:45 AM

EASTER BREAKFAST 7:30 – 8:50

EASTER SERVICE WITH PRAISE TEAM 9:00

If you wish to bring Easter Lilies or Spring Flower In memory of a loved one, Please Let Monica Know and it will be posted in the bulletins

TIPS FOR STEERING CLEAR OF LYME DISEASE

1. Start by tick-proofing your property with these five ways to keep ticks out of your yard. Keep grass cropped short and create natural barriers from wood chips and gravel that ticks won’t like to cross.
2. Consider raising backyard chickens—they love to snack on ticks and you’ll have fresh eggs every morning.
3. Check your pets daily for ticks, both to keep them safe and to prevent them from transferring ticks to you. Groom them with a flea comb, especially paying attention to places where ticks like to hide like the armpits and belly. You should also apply a tick repellent, preferably a natural one made with essential oils. (Plus, be sure to read up on these simple ways to protect your pets from pests.)
4. Protect yourself when you’re out gardening, hiking, berry picking, or doing anything in or around wooded areas. Wearing long sleeves and pants to cover exposed skin is a good idea (though not always realistic depending on the temperature). You should also apply a tick repellent. The most popular heavy-duty tick repellent is DEET, but you can also find some powerful natural essential-oil based options.
5. Do a tick check when you get inside or when you take a shower. Pay attention to your armpits, scalp, ears, and groin area, all places ticks like to hide.
6. If you do find a tick or suspect you’ve been bitten, don’t panic. Not every blacklegged tick carries Lyme, and it takes 24-36 hours for the tick to begin transmitting the pathogen to you. Carefully use tweezers to remove the tick at the head, pulling out the mouth. You can kill the tick by soaking it in alcohol, and then save it in a baggie to be tested for Lyme if you live in an area where the disease is present. Monitor your body for any red rash, not just a bulls’ eye—with Lyme, a rash only shows up in the classic bull’s eye shape 20 percent of the time. If you notice a rash, or experience fever and flu-like symptoms get to the doctor right away. The earlier Lyme is treated, the lesser chance you’ll have lasting effects from the disease

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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Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742

Church E-mail: plesantvalley@tcc.coop

Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com

PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2017

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 9th Maundy Thursday 13th

Good Friday 14th

Sunrise Service & Easter Breakfast

EASTER SUNDAY 16th