**Pastor’s Corner**, December 2017

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year.

In the church, just after we celebrate Thanksgiving with food and family, we join in worship to celebrate Christ the King Sunday. On this final Sunday of the church year we give thanks to God for Christ’s victory over pain, suffering, illness, and death. We give thanks that the ‘One’ who died and rose again now stands victorious over all the powers and forces of this world. When things seem to spin out of control, when families argue and fight, when elected leaders seek their own interests above the common good, when nations posture for war, we remain ever confident that Christ reigns over it all and nothing can separate us from God’s love in Jesus Christ.

And then we begin the journey toward Christmas.

On “Black Friday” I drove out to the Osseo clinic for work just like I do most every other Friday. At 6:15am I drove from our house on the north side of Eau Claire, down the 53 bypass toward I-94. I’m sure you can guess what I saw. Oakwood mall parking lot: full. Target parking lot: full. Menards parking lot: full. Best Buy parking lot: full. McDonald’s drive-through: lined with cars looping around the building.

Culturally, we welcome this season with a mad shopping rush. Looking for the best deals on the stuff we want for ourselves or to give as presents, we pack stores and malls.

For 4 weeks, starting December 3rd, the Church witnesses the season of Advent. In Advent, we wait. We wait for the birth of God in the world. We wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. We wait for that day when the victorious Christ the King will come again into this world to conquer all sin and brokenness and death. We light candles around a wreath and we wait.

We know the story of Christmas. We know Jesus will come again into this world,

born among us to redeem us from sin. We light candles and pray, knowing that the very thing we, and this whole world need, is coming so very soon.

As you gather with family and friends and celebrate this holiday season, take a few moments each day to pray. Pray that the ‘One’ who brings healing, wholeness, and life returns soon. Pray that all sin and brokenness are defeated. Pray for that day when death is no more.

And join us. Join us each Sunday this season as we, together, light candles and wait with hopeful expectation for the birth of God among us.

And may you and your family enjoy a wonderful and merry Christmas.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

The M&M Christmas story

 As you hold these candies in your hand

And turn them, you will see

The “M” becomes a “W”

And an “E” becomes a “3”.

They tell the Christmas story –

I’m sure it’s one you know…

It took place in a stable

A long, long time ago.

The “E” is for the East,

Where the star shone so bright.

The “M” is for the Manger, where

The Baby Jesus slept at night.

The “3” is for the Wise men,

Bearing gifts, with which they came.

“W” is for worship,

Hallelujah! Praise His Name!

So, as you eat these candies,

Or share them with a friend,

Remember the meaning of Christmas

It’s a love that never ends.

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes,**

Sunday, November 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 by President Kay Sands. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer when he joined us a bit later.

**Non-Agenda**

 Corissa Sands joined us. She will be heading up the Sunday School Christmas program. She has a count of about 10 children to participate in the program. They will practice on Saturday, December 9, from 9 a.m. until noon, at which time the children will have a Christmas party/lunch. Ruth will handle the lunch, with help from Kay if needed. The program will be on December 10, at 9 a.m. during the regular church service. Corissa will get the 75 apples and candy bars to be handed out after the program. The monies will come from the Youth Ministry budget.

 The secretary’s report was reviewed. First communion will be on November 12. 5 youth will commune. Roxie will buy a cake to serve for coffee. Tina will make a gluten free cake to serve as well.

 The treasurer’s report was reviewed. A $200 check has been written to pay for part of the registration for Annabelle to go to the Youth Gathering in Texas in 2018. She has paid the rest of the registration ($150) and $50 for the Synod bus they will be taking to the Gathering.

 There was no Ambassador’s report as such.

 Pastor reviewed his report. Pastor has set a schedule for our two visitation teams. The Transitions Program was closed down, but the monies collected for the program will be used to pay debts that were owed when the program closed. Advent begins December 3rd and we will collect food items for the food pantry from the 3rd to the 24th. Kay will get a list of items most needed and put them in the newsletter. We will collect through the season and present it to the food pantry to be used in the new year, when donations are down. Also, it was suggested that Pastor puts the parents of the newly baptized children, the Webers, on the newsletter list.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

The parking lot should be paved shortly.

There was discussion to invite Art Syth to a council meeting to provide information on volunteering at the Sojourner House.

Since Annabelle is going to attend the Youth Gathering with youth from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Strum, it was suggested that we invite the Strum youth to join us in serving the Lenten soup-and-sandwich suppers and maybe the Easter breakfast. That would depend on whether or not they have Lenten suppers at their church. Annabelle is selling “stock certificates” to help fund the trip and we will be displaying a copy of the ones she has sold at Pleasant Valley. The certificates are good for a meal after the youth return from the Gathering so we can learn how the trip went.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Pastor JonPaul will be gone on November 19. We will have the Thankoffering service in his absence.

The Thanksgiving service will be on Tuesday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The Praise Team will be worshiping at CVTCF the 25 and 31 of December. Kim made a motion to have just one service on Christmas Eve, at 5pm. Second by Roxie. There was some discussion. We voted on the motion, with 6 nays and one abstention. Ruth made a motion to have our regular Sunday service on Christmas Eve Day at 9 p.m. We will not have a service on Christmas Day. We will not have coffee after the Christmas Eve 9 o’clock service. Second by Aaron. Motion carried. We will have four Advent Sunday services, including December 24 at 9 a.m., and we will have the Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 p.m.

Updating the mission statement will be addressed at the annual meeting.

It was requested that the monies given in memory of Joe Sands be used to purchase cranberry hymnals, the altar version, the two for the accompanist, and the two with chords. Motion to do so by Aaron. Second by Dale. Motion carried. If the gifts for Joe don’t cover the cost we will use some of the memorial money from Phyllis Goff.

The 2017 Dream Act was brought up. A group from Eau Claire, JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope) is available to come to the church if we have an interest in learning about the movement/group. We could let the congregation know when they are meeting and anyone that would like to attend may do so, but we will not invite them to the church, since we do not want to bring politics into our church.

Aaron will plow snow for the church again this winter.

**Mission Offering**: November - Rhonda Hazen, Matt’s wife, who received a liver

transplant.

 December – Community Table

Next meeting – December 3, at 10:30.

Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Roxie. Motion carried.

We adjourned at 12:21. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxie Ulness

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

\*By the light of the Psalms:

*O come, let us worship*

*And bow down.*

*Psalms 95:6*

*Like those shepherds*

*Keeping watch in the fields.*

*\*By Chris Shea*

**Treasurers’ Report**

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D /August September October

Offering

$40,730.96 /$2,882.00 $2,551.00 $5,732.96

Misc. Income

$29,061.62 /$0.00 $25,297.29 $3,376.18

Expenses

$37,791.09 /$3,585.50 $2,898.89 $4,796.03

Year to date the offering has exceeded expenses by $6,704.20

August mission offering for Eleva Strum Backpack lunch program was $231.00

September mission offering for Mondovi Backpack lunch program was $309.00

October mission offering for Roger Tullius was $253.00

Building Fund:

In honor of Pastor Bill & Marilyn’s 50th wedding anniversary, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

**In memory of Joe Sands Jr.**

**Building Fund:**

Michelle Freezy

**Cemetery Association:**

Dave & Kim Vlcek Gary & Irene Isaacson

Richard & Darlene Pederson Louis Johnson

Greg & Roxie Ulness Sandra Schuch

Ellen Johnson David & Jerri Erickson Darrel & Jane Kleven Gary & Betty Nyseth Ron & Diane Books Other family & friends

**To be designated by family at a later date**:

Avis Erickson Peter & Rita Berger

Joe & Shirley Polkowski Sharon Vogler

Perry & Diane Nyseth Kathy Tweet

Maurice & Donna Eide Larraine Pire

Richard & Monica Bahr Art Syth

David & Marlyce Barclay Jim & Janice Lehman

Lovell Peterson Larry & Crystal Sands Ruthann Knutson Bill & Marilyn Wendt John & Christine Tinker Dale Pederson

Irene Lake Dale & Sharon Mann Donald & Cheryl Solfest Annette Nyseth

Arlene Prissel Allen Lehman

Dale & Sharon Anderson Jim & Diana Bockus

Steve & Stephanie Nelson

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**WELCA**

 Food Pantry month; Bring in items for the food pantry and put them in the basket in the Narthex. The hat and mitten, scarfs and socks etc., tree is up, so let’s fill it up! Thanks

We also have “Operation Christmas” from the Lutheran Social Service. Tthere are printouts in the narthex to take home. Choose any item or items from any group you wish and label the bag do not wrap them.

**Parish Nursing**

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

**Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday Margaret Hazen whose birthday is Dec, 11th. If you wish to send her a card; send it to River Pines Room #A242 206 N. Wilson Dr. Altoona, WI 54720.

Happy Birthday! Margaret!

**Praise Team News**

The Praise Team and friends will be Christmas caroling on December 17, leaving from the church at 1 p.m.

The band will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on December 24 and 31.

The group will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility the evenings of December 25 and 31.  We appreciate the support given to the Praise Team this year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!

**Advent services begins on the 3rd end on**

 **the 24th. Services are at 9am each with Holy Communion**

**Christmas Schedule:**

**Sunday School practice starts at 9am and**

 **the party begins at noon.**

**Sunday School Program during Worship on**

 **the 10th**

**Christmas Caroling the 17th- 1:00 at Church**

**Christmas Candle light Service on Christmas Eve Night at 5:00**

**TEXTS AND READERS for December**

**First Sunday of Advent - 3rd**

*Blue – Kathy Tweet*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

**Second Sunday of Lent – 10th**

*Blue Kim Vlcek*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

**Third Sunday of Advent – 17th**

*Blue Monica Bahr*

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – 24th**

*Blue Sharon Anderson*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

**Christmas Eve – 24th**

*White Sharon Anderson*

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

**First Sunday of Christmas – 31st**

*Blue Kay Sands*

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



**Thank Yous**

Dear Church Members,

 Thank you for directing funds from your September Mission Sunday collection to the Mondovi Elementary Backpack Program. We appreciate your generosity and support, and know that many students and families will be helped by your donation this school year.

Sincerely, Mondovi Elementary Backpack Food Program

Women & Men of Pleasant Valley Church,

 Thank you for time and thoughtful service at Dad’s funeral luncheon.

The Family of Joe Sands Karen, Kristine, Randy, & Larry Sands

Dear Pleasant Valley Church

 Hope Village - /Tiny Housing Alternatives, Inc. would like to thank you for your donation of $478.68. We know how hard everyone works at a Church Bazaar. These funds and your payers will help us to continue our work of housing people who are living without shelter.

Your generosity, hard work and continued support of this project is truly appreciated.

 Sincerely, Ruth Rosenow

Dear Roxie and Church Members –

 What a lovely note and generous offering you sent to our Weekend Meals for Kids Program! We are serving 36 children weekly and know your generosity provides one month entirely for our meal’s pantry supply. Thanks you so very much! Ann K.

“Thank You” for the wonderful card, it was like a ray of sunshine.

 Ben & Gerri Session

May your Christmas be blessed with peace and joy

 I still have my memories of when I was a child and our band also played in the PV Church.

 I also remember way back when I helped my grandfather Bennie Pederson pick and mow the graveyard.

 Also all the ladies aids with all the good food. It’s funny how ones childhood comes back with all the good times and good people.

 Thank you again for your card and may the Good Lord, Bless all of you.

To all a Happy and Blessed Xmas, It was nice to get your card and as always the feeling of Xmas. Bob Dutter

Dear Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for your financial gift of $478.68! I’m not certain that I can adequately express our gratitude; a simple “thank you” doesn’t seem enough.

 Our organization cares and serves individuals and families who have various challenges. We focus primarily on those who are homeless. We provide clothing, sleeping bags, coats, etc., and small amounts of food. We work solely from donations and we are all volunteers.

 If interested, we give presentations to explain our organization in more detail. Feel free to contact us about visiting and sharing what we do.

 Thank you again for our donation, we are grateful to have been recipients of your generosity!

 On behalf of the other volunteers and those we serve, Blessing to you all! Chippewa Street Ministry, Eau Claire WI 54702

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, December 17th, - 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 and Newsletter articles are due by Wednesday; I will print them on Thursday**

**Food Pantry**

**Most Desired Food Items:**

Canned fruits, and vegetables

Boxed or canned dinners (beef stew, chili, etc.), Cereal, Tuna, Peanut Butter, Canned soup, Pasta and sauce, Pancake mix and syrup, Juice

**Most Desired Non-Food Items:**

Toilet paper, Facial tissues, Paper towels, Diapers, and wipes, Soap, Laundry detergent, All-purpose cleaning supplies, Shampoo, Deodorant, Feed My People cannot accept donations of homemade foods or opened containers.

**Christmas Poinsettias**

If you wish to bring flowers of any kind to Church in memory of someone. Please let Monica know and we will have a list in the bulletin.

 IN NEED OF PRAYER

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Luanne Prochnow** -She is friend of Kim Vlcek with a recent cancer diagnosis!

**Marion Rose Glende** – continued healing and strengthening, she is once again back home. (Joy & Steve Glende’s baby girl, & Kathy Tweet’s granddaughter)

**Linda Ahlers** –doing chemo again, Lake City, MN (friend of the Poore’s)

**Rhonda Hazen** – healing after a liver transplant

**Gerri Sessions** - healing

**Joe Knutson** – healing

**Dale Rutchow** – end of life – paralyzed by Lyme's disease

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer **Christine Thompson** – struggling with Lupus

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

**Our service men and women, including Brendan Poore,** is home now in S.D.

**The inmates at CVCTF**

**Newly Baptized – Samira and Brad Weber, Jr.**

**All who we are visiting:**

**Avis Erickson,**

**Margaret Hazen,**

**Gary Hazen**

**Orvin Larson,**

**Bob Dutter,**

**Dave Bloom,**

**Jim & Janice Teigen**

**This month’s Mission offering recipient:**

**The Community Table**

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

W2450 Cty. Rd. WW

Eleva WI 54738

“That all May come, Serving all the People of God”

Pastor JonPaul Dragseth

Church office: 715-287-4473

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

Church E-mail: plesantvalley@tcc.coop

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

**PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER**

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

***December 2017***

***Advent services from the 3rd to 24th***

***Council Mtg. – 3rd***

***Sunday School practice and party 9th***

***Sunday School Program 10th***

***Christmas Caroling 17th- 1:00 at the Church***

***Christmas Candle Light Service***

***on Christmas Eve Night at 5:00***