Pastor’s Corner, January 2017

Resolutions

It’s that time of year again. Every January, after we have finished ringing in the New Year with family and friends, we have the opportunity to set new goals for our lives. As the calendar ticks over from one year to the next, we look back on the previous year at the things we have accomplished, the ways we have changed, and the things that just didn’t get done. And, we look forward, imagining the ways we could change our lives in the new year. People often make resolutions to lose weight, find a new job, reconnect with old friends, and many, many more.

But, January gives way to February, which soon brings March and the business of Spring and Summer. By June, most of us barely remember what those resolutions were in the first place. And, if we do remember, often our priorities have changed or the goal seems too far off to finish with only half of the year left. And that’s when the guilt sets in.

I, personally, don’t think there is anything wrong with setting New Year’s resolutions. Setting goals and working to achieve those things can help give a sense of purpose and direction in our lives. Like any goal, sometimes we are able to accomplish what we set out to do and sometimes we do not. What we need remember, however, is that our value and our worth as people does not depend on how many friends we have, how much money we make, or what the scale says when we step on it.

In the season of Christmas and through the season of Epiphany, we celebrate the God among us. We don’t just remember Christ’s coming into the world, but we again live Christ’s coming today. Christ comes into our lives and our communities to end sin, mend brokenness, and defeat death. That’s not something that happened 2000 years ago, it’s something that is happening today.

Christ comes now, into this world and into your life, out of love for who you are—a Child of God, redeemed through the waters of baptism and an inheritor of eternal life. That doesn’t change based on the things you do or don’t do in this life. So, yes, set goals and see where they take you. Maybe you will find that new job, maybe you rekindle old friendships, and maybe you will lose that weight. But whether you do, or whether a year from now you are setting similar goals for 2018, know that you are a valuable human being, God loves you, and you will always have a place among your brothers and sisters in Christ at Pleasant Valley.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

Sunday, December 11, 2016

 The meeting was called to order at 10:40 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 reviewed. We collected $239.00 for the Mission Offering for Hope Gospel Mission’s Meals Program. Pastor JonPaul’s report was oral. There were no baptisms, weddings, or funerals. There have been no comments on the Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 22, which was well attended. Two confirmands will be confirmed in May. Sunday School and confirmation will end on the same date. Pastor JonPaul thought we should have a half-day Saturday retreat with the two new council members once they are elected. We would do some planning as to the direction the church is going and how to get us to that goal. Pastor JonPaul will be taking his week of vacation from February 5 to the 12. There was no Ambassador’s report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**EDUCATION** – Jessica will enlist teachers for Sunday School for January through May. The Christmas program went very well. Thanks to Corissa!

**PROPERTY** – The bulletin board in Pastor JonPaul’s office will be removed, the holes will be spackled, and the office will be painted.

Kay will check with Thrivent to see if we can have the Thrivent Choice card reissued in the spring when we plan on starting the landscaping.

The trim above the kitchenette window is on hold until spring.

**WORSHIP** –

**Bazaar** – We have had a committee meeting to discuss future bazaars. The minutes were available and will be available at the Annual Meeting.

 Annual reports are due early in January. They need to be put together two weeks before the annual meeting on January 29.

 John will give some pictures of the roofing project to Kim to see if she can put together a slide show.

We did not go over the line item in the budget for the Sunshine Fund. It will be in the proposed budget for 2017.

 Pastor JonPaul and Monica will coordinate the scheduling of those wishing to sing or perform in church during the Christmas season. We have not heard comments on having Cathy play music during communion and the congregation choosing to sing or not so that people may pray and “commune” silently with God during that time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 Christmas schedule – Christmas Program was December 4

 December 24, candlelight service, 5:30

December 25, church with Praise Team, 9:00

 Kay has a Thrivent Choice card to use for quilting supplies. She and Sadie will go to buy supplies in the New Year.

 Pastor JonPaul will update the website, including putting a picture of the church with the new roof and paint and taking Pastor Bill’s phone number out of the contacts.

 Mission offering – December – (will be on Christmas Day) – Feed My People, earmarked for The Strum Food Pantry to supply weekend meals for children in need in the Eleva/Strum Schools

 January – The Mondovi Food Pantry

 February – an area Free Clinic?

 We reaffirmed that Lenten services will be at 6:30 with the soup and sandwich at 5:30.

Ash Wednesday is on March 1 this year.

The Opportunities to Serve list is being updated.

Is Aaron going to plow snow this winter?

 Next council meeting will be January 1, 2017, at 10:30.

 The meeting closed at 10:50 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present; JonPaul Dragseth, Kay Sands, John Poore, Ruth Poore

**Treasurers’ Report**

None submitted

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Bazaar Planning Minutes**

Sunday, November 27, 2016

 The meeting was called to order at 10:12 by President John Poore. It was the consensus that we should continue to have a fall bazaar on the first Sunday in October. The following suggestions were discussed:

1. continue the cake walk, but start immediately after church. Have two sets of kids to sell the paddles so each get to eat.
2. limit the bazaar to the meal, bake sale with lefse and doughnuts, the raffle, and the silent auction.
3. send thank-yous to Sands Valley Farms – C/O Aaron Sands, Steve Nelson, Sadie Odegard, and Crystal Sands on church letterhead.
4. on basket raffle have two or three tiers of cost for tickets; ie. $1, $2, $3 tickets with the $3 tickets going for the more expensive baskets. The tickets could be color coded for each price.
5. Cleghorn Fest – we will wait to see if it has changed in 2017 to include vendors on Sunday. We could have some of the high-end baskets available along with tickets to purchase at the Fest.
6. try to get the musical groups signed up earlier and only have it during the church service, not during the dinner.
7. maybe not put an ad in the Mondovi Herald at the cost of $90.
8. streamline the flyer to include essential information, so we can print it ourselves on special paper.

We talked about making lefse – 20 pounds of potatoes – 45 packages of 3 in

each package. We need more people to participate in the making of lefse. 8 people would be ideal. Making it the weekend before the bazaar worked fine.

 We brainstormed the following places that we might set up a booth to advertise for the bazaar: Buffalo County Fair – first weekend in August with a cost associated. Pioneer Days – August 11, 12, 13, 2017 with a cost of $20 for the three days.

 There was a suggestion that we have a late spring or early summer pig roast in the park as a fund raiser.

 It was also noted that the Thrivent card added $250 to pay for the chicken.

 The meeting ended at 11:23.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present; Roxie Ulness, Kay Sands, Randy Sands, John Poore, Ruth Poore, Pastor JonPaul Dragseth

**Visiting Homebound Members**

We are looking for some volunteers to make occasional visits to members who are not able to attend church. This ministry helps care for all members of Pleasant Valley and lets them know they are an important part of our community. Contact Kim Vlcek if you are interested.

**Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play during worship at Pleasant Valley on January 22 and 29. They will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility the evening of those two dates. Thank you to everyone who went Christmas caroling on December 11--it was a great time! Practice is usually held weekly on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to join the fun, contact Kim Vlcek for definite practice times/dates

**Confirmation**

Confirmation will continue Sunday morning after worship on January 8th.

**Sunday School**

 We are looking for teachers to sign up again, for each Sunday from now through May. We will not need a volunteer for Easter.

**Parish Nursing**

Ruthann will be attending the Parish Nurse gathering at Trinity Lutheran on January 27. There will be a presentation on the topic of Healing Touch.

Ruthann will take blood pressures after church on January 15.

**Happy Birthday**

 Phyllis Goff birthday is January 19th. Her address is Our House Memory Care, 733 W. Hamilton Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Please send her a Card.

**Thank You Cards**

 Thanks so much for the beautiful poinsettia & all your prayers.

 Avis Erickson

*(See her Christmas card on bulletin board)*

**Stories of Faith**

Thank you to Ruth Poore for sharing this story of your friend.

Sandy (not her real name) was diagnosed with a rare malignant tumor in her thigh, which was “as big around as three bratwursts” and needed to be removed surgically. Sandy looked up this type of cancer on the Web and found a site of blogs written by people who had survived it. However, she found the site too depressing, so she stopped viewing it.

Sandy was to have surgery to remove the tumor in Marshfield. This tumor was wrapped around the sciatic nerve, so there was the possibility that the nerve might be cut, which could cause numbness or even paralysis.

Sandy’s mother came over a couple of days before the surgery, and told Sandy that she had asked God to make it so that the physician could “peel the tumor off the nerve, just like peeling an orange.” Sandy thought that was rather specific, and a funny way of putting it, but thanked her.

Sandy intended to go back into the Web site to tell her story before her surgery, then not visit the Web site again. When she told her story, she got an immediate response from a gentleman who had the same type of cancer. He stated that he had gone to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, and the team of physicians had used radiation to shrink his tumor, which developed a hard casing, making it easier to remove. He told Sandy that he was going to call his physician and ask him to take Sandy’s case.

Sandy also telephoned Mayo Clinic Health Systems, and the physician called her back in less than three hours. He stated that he would set up his team of physicians to see her the next week.

She cancelled her surgery in Marshfield, and drove to Rochester the next week to meet with the team. The lead doctor explained that he would like to do 6 weeks of radiation; then give her 2 weeks for her leg to heal. He did understand that she might not want to wait 2 months to have her surgery. He explained that, although there was no guarantee, usually this type of tumor shrinks and forms a hard casing around the tumor, making it easier to remove.

The physician said he should then be able to “peel it off the nerve, just like peeling an orange.”

Upon hearing that sentence, Sandy’s hair stood up on the back of her neck. She cried and laughed and knew that God was with her.

Addendum: Sandy’s tumor did shrink to the diameter of 1 brat, it formed a hard casing; was removed without complications, and Sandy has been cancer-free for 9 years.

Do you have a faith story to share; either one of your own or someone else’s? Please see or e mail Ruthann at RuthiK6@gmail.com.

**TEXTS AND READERS FOR January**

**First Sunday after Christmas Day 1st** –

*When January 1st falls on Sunday, the name of Jesus is normally celebrated.*

(white) *Sharon Anderson*

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

**Baptism of Our Lord –8th** (White)

**Epiphany of Our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9 *Roxie Ulness*

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

**Second Sunday after Epiphany –15th** (Green)  *Kay Sands*

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

**Third Sunday after Epiphany –27th** (Green)

Isaiah 9:1-4 *Annabelle Vikingston*

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1, 10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany –29th** (Green)

Annual Meeting

Micah 6;1-8 *Dan Herzberg*

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1, 18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

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 **IN NEED OF PRAYER**

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Joe Knutson** – Healing

**Liam Loughney-** who is receiving treatments for cancer, Kim Vlcek’s cousin.

 **Jackie-**friend of Nicki Vlcek, who has some health concerns**.**

**The inmates at CVCTF**

**Our service men and women, including Brendan Poore,** deployed to Kuwait

**This month’s Mission Offering recipient is the Mondovi Food Pantry**

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, January 22nd for the February 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.**

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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**PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER**

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

**JANUARY 2017**

Happy New Year’s

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Martin Luther King Jr. Day