**Pastor’s Corner**, July 2017

Pastor’s Corner

In the month of July, your council will be meeting for a half-day retreat. Some of this time will be devoted to prayer, some to socializing and team-building, and some, as any good Lutheran meeting should, to eating.

But, together we will also brainstorm and plan for the coming year. I have shared a general outline of topics with the council at our June meeting, but I would like to share those thoughts with you as well. I do this so that if you have any ideas or suggestions, you can talk to one of our council members and let those thoughts and ideas be heard.

First, we will talk about goals. Who are we as a congregation? Where do we see ourselves in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years? And, in case you were wondering, I do believe Pleasant Valley Lutheran will continue to serve God and the people of God long into the future. But, as any good should, what do we want to look like? What should be our priorities? Perhaps we will set goals related to mission or membership or finances. Perhaps our youth and programming. I’m not sure where this conversation will take us, but I am excited for the possibilities.

Speaking of youth and youth ministry, we will spend some significant time talking about how we are meeting the needs of children, youth, and families through Sunday School, Confirmation, and Ambassadors. What is working well? What could we improve on? What would it look like to grow this area of ministry and is that even possible? What things might deepen and enrich the faith lives of all our members; from the youngest to the oldest?

Along with youth ministry, what about adult ministry? Are there opportunities to better connect with the adults of our congregation? Would people be interested in adult bible study, book club, or theology discussions outside the church walls? Perhaps we could reach some members by providing social events outside our typical Sunday morning worship.

And, of course, we will discuss worship. How we worship, why we worship and meeting the preferences of the people of Pleasant Valley will all be topics of conversation. Again, what is working, what could be improved and what things could we try that were done in the past or have never been done before that might enliven our worship of God? Keeping in mind that Christ stands at the center of all our worship, how might what we do and say reflect God’s love for us and our love for God and neighbor?

All that, and maybe more, in just half a day! Of course, we won’t answer all those questions. And, most certainly, we will raise questions that are not listed here. But, this is where we will start. I truly believe that the Spirit of God is at work among the people of Pleasant Valley. I believe that the life and faith of each of you is a beacon of hope in our world. I believe that God has great things in store for Pleasant Valley and I am excited to share in that ministry with you.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes Sunday, June 11, 2017**

 The meeting was called to order at 10:43 by President Kay Sands. Pastor JonPaul led us in prayer.

**NON-AGENDA** – none

**REPORTS**

 The secretary’s report was reviewed. There was a correction made that Strum, not Eleva, is going through a change in pastors.

 The treasurer’s report was reviewed. In May we collected $257.00 for the Mission Offering for Joy Glende and her family.

 The Pastor’s report was reviewed. Pastor reported no weddings or funerals this month. We need to make sure people know about a policy for non-member burials to keep the Pastor informed. Kay will invite Larry Sands and Dick Bahr, as Cemetery Association members, to attend the next council meeting so they know Pastor’s wish to be informed about any burials.

 The visitation teams will again meet with Pastor in August or September. The list has not been updated. Pastor has not heard that anyone is being missed for a visit. It was requested that we take David Bloom and Joe Sands off the list to receive an Easter lily and poinsettia. Would Ellen Johnson be interested in being on the visitation list?

 Confirmation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. next year, on all Sundays except the first of the month, due to council meetings. Kyle Bahr and Catie McAleer are possible confirmands for next year.

 There was no Ambassadors’ report. Annabelle McAleer and Katelyn Leland are possible attendees to the 2018 Youth Gathering and also possible camper attendees for the summer. We have monies to sponsor youth for both The Gathering and for camp.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**EDUCATION** – There was no response from Immanuel Lutheran regarding our request that we might join them for VBS. We will be discussing both Sunday School and confirmation during the council retreat. Pastor will ask Corissa if she would be able to coordinate VBS and Youth Gathering planning. Also, perhaps Strum would take students from our Sunday School for VBS.

**PROPERTY** – There will be a date set, when Mark can get the lift, for repairing/replacing the ceiling fan nearest the balcony. The projector screen will be removed at the same time. John, Mark, Dale, and Randy Sands will coordinate the project. Thrivent seed money has been approved for the fan project and the fan has been purchased.

 The landscaping is well under way. A thank you will be sent to Schwennsens for their work and there will be an acknowledgement during a church service.

**WORSHIP** –

 Bazaar – Discussed at the planning meeting.

 Pastor has updated and improved the website.

 The Gideons have not responded to Pastor’s call.

 We will discuss having a spring thrift sale or auction, perhaps with a meal, at another time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 A council retreat has been set up for July 22, from 8 a.m. until noon, at the church. Council members will bring brunch-type food. Kay will supply beverages. Generally, we will be discussing how to set up an effective youth program for all youth, and other matters that need our attention.

**Mission offering:**

 June – Luther Park

 July – Transitions; a home for victims of human trafficking in Neillsville - Lutheran Social Services sponsored

 August – Mondovi Weekend Backpacks

 September – Eleva/Strum Weekend Backpacks

**OTHER**

 Next council meeting will be in conjunction with the Council Retreat on July 22, 2017, starting at 8:00 a.m.

 Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Roxie. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 11:26 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Kay Sands, Roxie Ulness, Kim Vlcek, Aaron Sands, John Poore, and Ruth Poore

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Bazaar Planning Minutes Sunday, June 11, 2017**

 The meeting came to order at 9:54 by President Kay Sands.

 We began by talking about the meal to be served at the bazaar on October 1, 2017. Randy Sands volunteered to take charge of cooking the chicken. Kay Sands will organize the meal, procure a Thrivent card to help cover the cost, and purchase the food. We will give the profits from the meal to a cause yet to be determined. Luther Park was suggested, since they are planning to build a new chapel. Also, the Youth Gathering attendees could use monies donated to help their cause.

 For the bazaar, we decided to continue the bake sale, hoping to have enough people to make the lefse and people to make doughnuts. We will continue the craft sale, but only with newly made crafts, not thrift-sale/white elephant type items. Down the road, maybe next spring, we will have a thrift sale and meal; maybe next spring in Olson Park to help a cause. A Thrivent card could also be applied for to use for that fund raiser.

 The basket raffle was discussed. We talked about raffling the baskets in tiers, having the more expensive baskets requiring $5 tickets, a medium basket requiring $3 tickets, and the lower cost baskets requiring $1 tickets. That would require having different color tickets for each cost.

 It was finally decided to still have the $1 cost for each ticket. Also, the baskets should have a label that tells what is in it and approximate value.

 We will continue the silent auction for higher value items. We will have people get numbers and use them instead of names, so people don’t have to struggle with bidding against those that they know.

 So we don’t have to deal with thrift sale items, we will announce that there will be a thrift sale in the spring. We will ask for only new, hand-crafted items made for the purpose of the bazaar. We will hold back inappropriate items for the spring thrift sale.

 We will continue the cake walk. We will only accept 12 cakes, and any other cakes will be put on the bake sale.

 Should we set up a booth at Cleghorn Fest this year? Last year we were offered to be there all three days, and we were there for Saturday and Sunday. At that time we felt our time was not worth the exposure. We will wait until later in the summer to make a decision on having a booth at Cleghorn Fest.

 Steve Nelson has volunteered a half hog, John Poore has volunteered a face cord of firewood, Aaron has volunteered some amount of meat, and we usually have 2 to 4 handmade quilts from Sadie and Crystal. There was a suggestion that we may have a tree stand or gift card from Scheel’s on the raffle.

 The King’s Countrymen will play during the service. There will be no music during the dinner. We will give each member of the King’s Countrymen a free ticket for the meal.

 We adjourned at 10:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Kay Sands, Randy Sands, Dave Vlcek, Kim Vlcek, Roxie Ulness, Cathy Winger, Aaron Sands, Mark Koser, Kim Koser, John Poore, and Ruth Poore

**WELCA**

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits are ready to be assembled, but to complete the 10 kits we have started we need a few more items. We need the following:

10 towels

8 large combs

3 nail clippers

1 bar of soap

If you would like to help complete more kits, each kit should contain the following:

1 towel - 40" x 20" or 52" x 27" - light weight, dark color recommended

2 or 3 bath size bars of soap (total 8 to 9 ounces) in original wrapper - no mini or hotel size bars

1 adult size toothbrush in original wrapper

1 sturdy comb - no picks or fine tooth combs - remove original wrapper

1 metal nail clipper - remove wrapper

Let’s see how many be can do this year!

**Faith Stories** will be back in September.

Plan now to what ‘You’ want to say! And then let Ruthi know.

**Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on July 23 and July 30. The group will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on those evenings. Practices are on Wednesday evenings this summer at 6:30. All are welcome to come!

**Women's Retreat**

The Women of the ELCA Dairyland Conference will hold their annual retreat at Luther Park in Chetek on August 17-18. The theme for this year's event is "All Anew." With the featured speaker, Barbara Solsaa, Clergy Life Coach. Attendees will explore how the Holy Spirit is active in their lives. Registration fee is $62 for both days and $30 for just Friday. Contact Monica Bahr or Kim Vlcek for more information. See Flyer in this newsletter.

**Annual Daylily Dig**

Immanuel Lutheran Church’s Annual Daylily Dig is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 14-15.
**Daylily Dig is at Greg & Diane Kaufmann’s**

**5207 70th Street, Chippewa Falls**

Times are Friday from Noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

***Come and see what Tim Fehr & Greg Kaufmann have this year!!***

***Plants available with donation.***
Proceeds to go to ZIP (Zomba-Immanuel- Partners)/Malawi.
You may dig as many daylilies as you can carry from marked beds.
Or, you can just come out to see the gardens, enjoy snacks and drinks in the shade of the covered deck.
Either way, it will be a delightful day!!

**Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday to everyone who has a July birthday!

**Faith Stories** will be back in September.

Plan now to what ‘You’ want to say! And then let Ruthi know.

**Treasurers’ Report**

*None submitted*

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**Parish Nursing**

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

**TEXTS AND READERS FOR July**

(All Green)

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 2nd**

*John Poore*

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 9th**

*Julie Schwennsen*

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost –16th**

 *Randy Sands*

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:1-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost-23rd**

 *Roxie Ulness*

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost-30th**

*Ruthann Knutson*

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



 IN NEED OF PRAYER

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Marion Rose Glende** – strength and healing (Joy & Steve Glende’s baby girl, & Kathy Tweet’s granddaughter)

**Dan Werlein** – recovering from Knee replacement surgery

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

**Gerri Sessions** - healing

**Joe Knutson** – healing

**Dale Rutchow** – end of life – paralyzed by Lyme's disease (friend of Ruthann’s)

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer (friend of Ruthann’s)

**Christine Thompson** – struggling with Lupus (friend of Ruthann’s)

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

**Our service men and women, including Brendan Poore,** now in Iraq

**The inmates at CVCTF**

**All who we are visiting with:**

**Avis Erickson, Joe Sands,**

**Margaret Hazen, Gary Hazen**

**Orvin Larson, Bob Dutter,**

**Dave Bloom, Jim & Janice Teigen**

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

 **Transitions Human Trafficking Program** will be the recipient of the July mission offering. This Lutheran Social Services program, located near Neillsville, provides intensive, specialized treatment to help girls involved in sex trafficking overcome their trauma. The therapists understand the struggles these girls face, and provide support to help them feel safe and empowered again. Girls, 10-17 years old, are placed in the Transitions program to learn to cope with their feelings and move from sex trafficking victim to survivor. These treatment options are especially important as the prevalence of sex trafficking continues to increase across the Midwest.

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:**

 **Sunday, July 23rd for the August 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 Wednesday during the summer months.**

“Very Truly,

 I tell you,

Whoever keeps my

WORD will

never see

DEATH.”

John 8:51, NRSV

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

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’***

**JULY 2017**

INDEPENDENCE DAY

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!