

Pastor's Corner, May 2017

On Sunday, May 21st, two of our young people will be confirmed. But, what does that mean? And why do we confirm people anyway?

In the early church, when people wanted to become Christians, they went through a process called the catechumenate. This was a multi-year process during which people learned about the faith; the stories of the Bible, the resurrection of Jesus, the history of the Church, and what discipleship looks like. They attended church, but, because they were not members, were ushered out prior to Communion. This multi-year educational process ended with Baptism and entry into the church, with the celebration of their first Holy Communion.

Eventually, the church flourished and became the norm for society. Everyone was a Christian, if only in name. During the Middle Ages, when the fear of death was so high, mixed with the belief that only the Baptized go to heaven, people of all ages, including infants, were baptized to ensure their eternal salvation.

We kept the practice of infant Baptism—because it is a beautiful sign of God's pure grace that washes over us, apart from any act of our own. The downside, however, is that we lost those formative years in which adults chose to become part of the church and had years of education.

So, confirmation was born. For two years our 7th and 8th graders here at Pleasant Valley learn what it is to be a Christian and follower of Jesus. We study the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the 10 Commandments. We learn about Martin Luther and his reform of the Church. We read the Bible together and learn the stories of our faith. And, at the end, we confirm these young people into the Church and our congregation.

For years our young people are brought by parents and grandparents to Sunday school, worship, and events at church, maybe without

any real choice. On Confirmation Sunday these two will stand before us and claim this faith as their own. Of course, like all of us, they will still have questions and doubts. They will have days when following Jesus seems like a burden. But, as God has claimed them in the waters of Baptism, so too, they confess their faith alongside us and become followers of Jesus, seeking to be God's hands and feet in the world in their daily lives.

Being a disciple is no easy task. And, sometimes we have trouble grabbing hold of this faith. So, come. Join us on May 21st and, with these young people, re-confirm your faith, hear the Good News of God in Jesus Christ, and welcome these two young men into the mission of the Church. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church **Council Minutes**

Sunday, April 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:22 by President Kay Sands. Pastor JonPaul led us in devotion from Psalm 127 and a prayer.

NON-AGENDA – none

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. In January we collected \$226.00 for the Mission Offering for the Parr family, an Altoona family that lost their home to a fire. We have collected \$1,707 from the soup and sandwich suppers and the Lenten offering to send campers to Luther Park. Any money left will be put towards sending youth to the Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018.

The Pastor's report was read by the council. We discussed the visitation teams. The list will be adjusted to put Avis and Joe with the same team. Also, Catie McAleer has

been helping Pastor during Lenten services and she has been doing a nice job.

There was no Ambassadors' report.

John made a motion to approve the reports. Second by Aaron. 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. Kay will get Alyssa Engedal's e-mail address to Aaron so he can contact Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire to find out if we could join them for VBS, if we have any interested youth. We will be discussing both Sunday School and confirmation during the council retreat.

PROPERTY – A date of April 22 has been set to repair/replace the ceiling fan nearest the balcony. Mark will supply a lift to take care of that. There was some discussion as whether to replace all fans while the lift is available, since they are all of the same vintage. The projector screen will be removed at the same time. Thrivent seed money has been approved for the fan project.

WORSHIP – The Synod still has us at 179 members. Although that number does not change the amount we send the Synod, a more accurate count would be 77 members.

We did not have a Thrivent meeting during Lent to brainstorm projects for which we could use Seed Money. We will do so during the council retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

The Gideons would again like to visit with the congregation. Pastor will try to have them come after Easter; April 23 or 30.

The Synod Assembly registration has to be in by April 14. Pastor JonPaul and Kim Vlcek will be attending. Monica may also be attending as a volunteer.

Kay will contact the King's Countrymen to see if they can play during the service on October 1, 2017. That is bazaar Sunday.

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

May – Joy Glende

June – Luther Park

July –

August – Mondovi Weekend Backpacks

September – Eleva/Strum Weekend

Backpacks

OTHER

The county is going to pave the road in front of the church and put in a stop sign this summer. We will then need to repave the space between the county's pavement and the church. We will wait until they are done to see what we need to do. It will be coordinated with Schwennsens to see that it fits with the landscaping. John will talk to Julie.

There is one white table missing. Pastor will announce that in church and we will see if we can find it. Kay would like to borrow the 12/13 tables from the dining room from April 29 to May 7. She would also like to borrow the white tablecloths. That was approved.

Next council meeting will be May 7, 2017, at 10:30.

Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dale, Aaron, Roxie, and John. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 11:28 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Poore, Council Secretary

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

Treasurers' Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses
Y-T-D Offering \$12,439.00

January	February	December
\$4,353.00	\$3,640.00	\$4,446.00
<u>Misc. Income Y-T-D \$257.77</u>		
January	February	December
\$0.00	\$223.77	\$34.00
<u>Expenses Y-T-D \$10,939.78</u>		
January	February	December
\$3,322.95	\$4,230.67	\$3,386.16

Year to date the offering has exceeded expenses by \$1,756.99

January mission offering for Mondovi Food Pantry was \$322.00

February mission offering for Chippewa Valley Free Clinic was \$316.00

March mission offering for the Parr family was \$226.00

A gift From Orvin Larson towards the Easter Lilies

Building Fund:

In memory of Arnie Prissel

From Randy and Kay Sand

From Arlene Prissel

From Larry and Crystal Sands

In memory of Phyllis Goff

From Randy and Kay Sands

From Darrel & Kathie Werner

From Dale and Sharon Anderson

From Evelyn Mousel

From Bill and Marilyn Wendt

From John and Ruth Poore

From Randy and Cathy Winger

From Dorothy Richardson

From Jeanne Niccum

From Picillamae Olson

From Jim Helstad

From Kathy Tweet

Praise Team Fund:

In memory of Arnie Prissel

From Arlene Prissel

from Dan & Nola Herzberg

Cemetery Fund:

In memory of Phyllis Goff

From Richard and Monica Bahr

From Larry and Crystal Sands

From Gary and Irene Isaacson

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

WELCA

Several women of our congregation went to the Morning of Renewal gathering at Immanuel Lutheran in Strum. The guest speaker was Deb Gilbertson speaking on "Anger is not Fun". She was very interesting and had lots of good points to share, along with a lot of humor. We elected 3 new officers; a Co-coordinator a Financial secretary – Treasurer, and a Mission person. The Strum ladies served coffee and goodies during registration and a wonderful lunch at noon. There were 62 people present they took in \$374.00 in offering several quilts were donated and lots of love gifts for the food pantry locate in the church there.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play during worship at Pleasant Valley Sunday, May 28. The group will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility that evening. Members of the Praise Team assisted Chaplain Hull with weekly praise worship and Bible studies for the men at CVCTF during April. The group practices on Thursday evenings at 6:30 and everyone is welcome!

Confirmation

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

Sunday School

Thank you to all who taught this year.
The last Sunday will be May 14th.

Parish Nursing

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

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Joe Sands on May 18th
If you wish to send him a card, send to:
Millstone Living 5512 Rene Drive Apt. 207,
Eau Claire, WI 54703
Happy Birthday Joe!

Memorial Sunday May 28th.

The Eleva Post will have a short ceremony in the grave yard by the flag pole. Please everyone join us after worship, before coffee fellowship.

Note the Eleva auxiliary will be having the Poppy Day in Eleva on May 5 & 6, come and make a donation for a poppy.

*"In my distress
I called upon the
Lord...
From his temple he
Heard my voice, and
My cry came
to his ears."
2 Samuel 22:7 NRSV*

Stories of Faith

Rhonda's story

I have always attended church at Pleasant Valley. When Gary and I were young, he played Joseph and I played Mary in the Sunday school Christmas program. I remember Sharon Anderson trying to dress us for the Christmas story; I remember Gary being a typical boy, and Sharon being sweet and patient with us. Gary and I were eventually married, and we traveled west for our honeymoon. We stopped in to see Pastor George and LaDora in North Dakota, and when we rang the doorbell, Pastor George greeted us and said, "I always knew you two would end up together!!"

No one plans to have a child with cerebral palsy, but God was always with us. One Sunday I was in church, feeling sad for my son, and I was wondering if my faith was enough to handle our circumstances. Then out of the blue, I heard Pastor Bill praying for Joe. It was as if Pastor Bill knew that was just what I needed, and I knew from then on that God would always be with us. We never know when something we might say or do may be just the thing that someone needs, and affects them for the rest of their lives.

I say the Lord's Prayer every night with Joe, and he now expects it. One night Tim was babysitting, and Joe would not fall asleep. Eventually he prayed the Lord's Prayer, and Joe went right to sleep. Those words, which he also hears at Pleasant Valley, seem to be a comfort for him. Thanks to all who have prayed for our family all these years.

If you have a faith story to share, please contact Ruthann, either after a church service, or by e mail at RuthiK6@gmail.com.

TEXTS AND READERS FOR May

Fourth Sunday of Easter – 7th (White)

Larry Sands

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 14th (White)

Corissa Sands

Acts 7:55 -60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 11:4:1-140:1-10

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 21st (White)

Kim Vlcek

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Ascension of our Lord-25th

Act 1:1-11

Psalms 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Seventh Sunday of Easter- 28th (White)

Memorial Day Sunday

Monica Bahr

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

The Family of Bev Timm DeBusman

The Family of James Erickson

May they both rest in peace with our Lord

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

Shirley Polkowske – Doctoring for her eyes

Gerri Sessions - healing

Joe Knutson - healing

Robert Timm – healing

Joy Glende – on bed rest until baby comes 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

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:

Luther Park

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, May 21st for the June 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.

****The ultimate stain remover that actually works on a seriously set in stain!
Never buy stain remover again!**

The mixture is:

1 tsp. Dawn dishwashing detergent

3-4 tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide

A couple tablespoons of baking soda

Scrub on with a scrubbing brush!



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’

MAY 2017

National Day of Prayer – 4th

Happy Mother’s Day – 14th

Confirmation - 21st

Ascension of our Lord – 25th

Memorial Sunday - 28th