

This year, twice now we have had two religious festivals coincide with secular holidays in a way that almost seems comical. On February 14th, we observed Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten journey by putting ashes on our forehead as a sign of repentance while culturally we were giving out candy and chocolate hearts for Valentine's Day.

Have you ever heard of the "left-handed Whopper" from Burger King? How about how Taco Bell wanted to purchase the Liberty Bell and rename it "Taco Liberty Bell."? Did you hear about the rookie pitcher in 1958 who could throw a 168mph fastball? You must have heard about the Swiss farmers who harvested spaghetti noodles from trees, right?

These are just some of the more popular April Fools pranks that news outlets and restaurants have had some fun with on April 1st, or April Fool's Day. All in good fun, they were successful at confusing and tricking those who didn't get the joke right away. Maybe some of you, too, have played April Fool's pranks on friends and family.

This year, Easter Sunday falls right on this day of jokes and pranks.

In our world and time of skepticism and declining Christian faith and participation in the life of the Church, this seems like a poor coincidence. Perhaps you have encountered people who think faith in Jesus is foolish.

But, you know what? Maybe the juxtaposition of Easter and April Fool's makes more sense than it seems at first glance.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18)."

It seems foolish that God in Jesus Christ would give up all power and authority to live among us and die on a cross. It seems foolish to think that God destroys the power of death by dying. It seems foolish to believe that death brings new life. It seems foolish to believe that through Christ's dying and rising you and I have abundance and fullness of life. The whole thing seems a bit foolish.

But not to us. To us who believe in God, to us who follow the Risen Christ, to us who have seen and experienced the work of the Holy Spirit among us, it is not foolishness. It is none other than the work of God in Jesus!

While some may claim that the Jesus story is foolishness, you and I have the assurance that through the Risen Jesus you and I receive forgiveness of sin, abundant life, and the promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom. That's not foolishness; that's faith in Jesus.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed.
Hallelujah!

Happy Easter!
Pr. JonPaul

He is Risen!
Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!
Hallelujah!

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

Council Minutes,

Sunday, March 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 by President Kay Sands. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer. **NON-AGENDA** – Steve Nelson, representing Thrivent, was at the meeting to inform us about how our mutual funds are doing. He spoke about our Money Market Certificate and possible concerns the members might have. We also had some questions answered about the Thrivent Seed Money, which now needs to be gotten 17 days before the event. The Thrivent Choice money given to the church needs to be taken care of by the end of March.

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Roxie highlighted some expenses. The Mission Offering for the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Rice Program was \$188.00.

The Ambassador's report highlighted what the Ambassadors are doing for the Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday and the Easter morning breakfast.

Pastor reviewed his report. We have 2 or 3 youth registered for the up-coming Christ Jam, in Rice Lake on March 10, from 8:30 to 4:00 or 4:30. The \$40 fee for each of the youth attending has been paid and we will also pay the fee for any adults attending. Annabelle will be attending as an observer. There will be a Synod vote on Friday to elect Annabelle as a Dairyland Representative for the Synod Youth Board. It is a 2 year position. Part of her duties will be to help plan an August Godstock and next year's Christ Jam.

A motion was made by Kay to accept all reports. Second by Dale. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Education – The teachers' training went well, but was not well attended. We still need a couple teachers for the rest of the year. The last Sunday School class will be May 13 with the church service and a cook out in the Olson Park.

Property – We talked about the necessity of using salt and sand generously

whenever the melting snow re-freezes as it runs out of the landscaping. Dale and Sharon have been doing a good job keeping the areas salted and sanded.

Worship – will be working on the service in the park on May 13.

On March 18 the Synod will be here to discuss the results of the survey and the successes and pitfalls of a "Working Pastor", or bi-vocational pastor.

Setting a date for the council retreat in April was tabled until we have heard from the Synod as to the results of the survey. It will likely be on a Saturday morning.

NEW BUSINESS

The 9th annual Walking Together, a day of learning and workshops presented by the Synod on March 17. There's a \$20 per person fee. It begins at 7 to 8 a.m. and goes until 3:30.

On April 22 the youth that will be attending this summer's Youth Gathering in Texas will be leading the music for our service. We will have communion.

The Synod Assembly will be held June 2 and 3 at UWEC. They will be electing a bishop this year. They would like to see a male and a female attendee at the cost of \$250 per voting member. Registration is due by May 25.

Mission Offering:

March – Ronald McDonald House

April – 513 Free Pen Project

OTHER ITEMS – The Easter lilies will be available at the church on Palm Sunday so they can be delivered by the visitation committee.

Next meeting – April 8, at 10:30.

Ruth made a motion to adjourn.

Second by Dale. Motion carried.

We adjourned at 11:30. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Poore

Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Kay Sands, Roxie Ulness, Dwight Sands, Dale Anderson, Kim Vlcek, Mark Koser, Ruth Poore, Corissa Sands, Steve Nelson of Thrivent

Ambassadors' Report to Council on March 4, 2018 - 3/4/2018

Treasurer's Report \$ 500.00

Christ Jam- Rice Lake- Wisconsin - Saturday,
March 10, 2018

Attended - Adult - Tena McAleer

Observer - Annabelle McAleer

Sarah McAleer

Catie McAleer

Palm Sunday- March 25, 2018 - Easter Egg
Hunt after church - No Sunday School

Sunday, April 1, 2018 - Easter Sunday

Menu:

Sausage Patties

Milk

Coffee

Orange Juice

Rolls and Doughnuts - ordered

Croissants

Scrambled Eggs

Times: 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Praise Team Service

Thrivent Card - Kay Sands ordered for getting
supplies = \$ 250.00 card for Easter supplies

Lenten Services Soup and Sandwich as of
3/4/2018 = \$ 679.00

Lenten Services Offering as of 3/4/2018 =
\$ 352.00

Total for Luther Park and Youth Fund =
\$ 1051.00

Luther Park Sign-Up for Early Bird Discount is
May 1, 2018. Register and pay in full by May 1,
2018, and receive a \$20.00 discount for full-
week programs and \$ 10.00 for 1/2 week
programs. Sibling and multiple-week discounts
are available by calling camp.

Respectfully submitted,

Corissa Sands

Treasurers' Report

None submitted

*By the light of the Psalms:

Thou visitest the earth and waterest it...

Psalms 65:9

Thank you for rain showers ...

**By Chris Shea*

Faith Story

Do you have a story or testimony to
share? Either talk to Ruthann or send an e mail
to RuthiK6@gmail.com.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at
Pleasant Valley on April 1 and 29. The group
will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley
Correctional Treatment Facility on April 22 and
29. Practices are Thursdays at 6:30 pm--
check the newsletter calendar for dates.

Parish Nursing

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

WELCA

Women Morning of Renewal is in Black River Falls, on April 18th. Kim is running for President! Good Luck as you begin a new roll in the church women life. Council is paying the registration of \$8.00 per person. Please Let Monica know if you would like to attend. Registration need to be sent off by 11th. The Synodical Women's Organization convention is in Rice Lake, April 20th and 21st. The business meeting is on Friday eve. Monica is going as the delegate, the gathering with breakouts and worship is on Saturday. Registration due April 7th of \$35.00. See Monica for more information.

Sunday School

The Sunday school is enjoying the year please sign up for the open spots for a teacher. If you do not wish to do the Children's message let Monica know; she can help you with that.

TEXTS AND READERS for April

Easter Sunday – 1st

White *Ruth Poore*

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Second Sunday of Easter – 8th

White *Kathy Tweet*

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1—2:2
John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter– 15th

White *Monica Bahr*

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Fourth Sunday of Easter – 22^{ed}

White *Randy Sands*

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 29th

White *Corissa Sands*

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8





Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 2018

Dear Saints of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

This week I was honored to preach at the funeral of a 37 year old pastor who died too young and left behind a wife and a two year old daughter. It was an honor, but also just plain hard work. Not just for me, but everyone who sat in the overflowing sanctuary. But what would have been inestimably harder would have been doing that work without Easter...doing that work without Jesus. But I was able to stand in that pulpit and proclaim as clearly, and with as much certainty as I could muster, that death does not have the final say. I said these words: "Jesus died, and Jesus rose again, for a day just like this." Yes he did.

I often tell pastors, deacons and Synodically Authorized Ministers: "There are three high holy days in the year - Christmas, Easter and Mothers' Day. And don't ever forget Mother's day!" All three of these days celebrate the gift of new life. Each, in its own way, celebrates Jesus bringing new life into a world that can be dragged down by the fear and the reality of death.

So, what about Easter? First of all, I hope that everyone who reads these words takes/makes the time to go to church on Easter. Secondly, as you sit there in the lily scented church, surrounded by light and the sound of beautiful hymns, try to imagine your most difficult collision with death without the belief that Jesus really did rise from that tomb. Imagine burying a parent, or a child, or a spouse or a friend without that promise. Imagine. I cannot.

I cannot imagine, because I don't remember a day in my entire life when I didn't have that promise folded into me. It has strengthened me on days when it was all I had. The promise that "Jesus died, and Jesus rose again, for a day just like this." It is an awesome gift and one for which I am grateful.

This Easter, go to church. But don't just go there. Imagine someone who hasn't received the gift of that promise. If you can't think of anyone, well, you may need to get out and make some new friends! Because what you have been given, is too precious to hang onto by yourself. All of us, if we live long enough, will experience a "day just like this." It is inevitable. And we have a promise that will make a difference to someone who just cannot do that plain hard work by themselves.

They need Jesus. They need the promise of Jesus. They need the hope of Jesus. They need what you have been given. Please...share it. It is an honor.



Bishop Rick Hoyme
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

The Family John Erickson: passed away, cousin to the Sands family

Maritza Nohemi, 7th grader in Guatemala, whose education we are sponsoring this year.

Sharon Anderson: for healing, after surgery on broke her arm.

Monica Bahr – thyroid and heart valve trouble

The Triplet's Grandma Rita: Jeni Knutson's mother, diagnosed with stage 4 renal cancer

Mike Willemssen, friend of the Bahr's; had heart attack caused by a gallbladder attack.

Nick Polkowske – prostate cancer and heart trouble

Terry McDonnell – possible cancer –Ruthann's brother-in law

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

Marion Rose Glende – healing, to remove feeding tube (Joy & Steve Glende's baby girl, & Kathy Tweet's granddaughter)

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Dale Rutchow – paralyzed by Lyme's disease

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Christine Thompson – struggling with lupus, in Mondovi Nursing Home

Lou Ann Helland – Kyle & Kasey Bahr's other Grandma – preparing for knee replacement surgery

Our service men and women; Kendall Dragseth, She is Pastor's cousin and serves in the Navy. She was just deployed to the Middle East.

The inmates at CVCTF

All those on our Visiting list:

Avis Erickson,	Margaret Hazen,
Gary Hazen,	Orvin Larson,
Bob Dutter,	Dave Bloom,
Jim & Janice Teigen	

Thank you's:

Thank you all so much for coming to Marion's Baptism. And thank you Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church for having it. Thank You Mom Kathleen Tweet, Monica Bahr and all of the Ladies for making Marion's Gown. It is BEAUTIFUL. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. Thank You All So Much! Joy and Steve Glende

Thank you for send out the greeting cards I sure enjoy receiving them. Bob Dutter

Thank you for the greeting card Sure makes my day Orvin Larson

Dear Pleasant Valley Congregation,
Thank you for your donation of \$188 to the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association. Your continued support means so much to our community.
Thank you for your gift!
Sincerely Sarah Driever
Director of Program Development

Happy Birthday to Jim Teigen April 23rd
Send cards to Jim at S11530Cty Rd W,
Eleva, WI 54738

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:
***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday,**
April 22nd - 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 and Newsletter articles are
due by Wednesday; I will print them on
Thursday, thanks.

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

PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2018

A BLESSED EASTER

Morning of Renewal for Dairyland Conference

WELCA at Black River Falls

SWO Convention in Rice Lake