

A New Year with New Opportunities

I love the New Year. Like the beginning of any change or adventure in our lives, the New Year holds nearly endless possibilities for what we can accomplish. Here at Pleasant Valley, we continue to hold a strong faith in Jesus as Savior, have dedicated servants who help make our congregation great, and have a deep and abiding sense that we want to do more in our communities.

When council met for our retreat this past year, one of the things that came up again and again was that we wanted to find more ways to reach beyond our walls.

Isn't that incredible? Already we collect a monthly mission offering helping those in need, provide worship service at the Chippewa prison, donate school supplies, collect an offering for the pantry through Advent, donate personal care kits, contribute to Christmas presents for needy families, and send quilts to keep people warm in our community and around the world.

But still we want to do more. We want to find more ways to reach out, locally and globally, to serve those in need.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Perhaps without realizing it she captured the sense of what it is to be a disciple. As baptized followers of Jesus Christ, you and I are called to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world, serving all those whom God loves. From our small corner of the Church, our small congregation in rural Eleva, we continue to make an impact locally and globally. Out of love for God through Jesus, we show Christ's love beyond the walls of our church.

Over the course of the next year, you will hear about more opportunities to get involved in serving our neighbors. We might go door to door inviting others to join us. We might host a summer picnic for our community. We might serve at local charities in and around Eau Claire. We might provide opportunities to work for justice and equity in our community through local organizations. Of course, you may choose to be involved in some or even all of these opportunities. As we continue to grow in faith in God through Jesus, we will continue to seek ways to be the Church together.

I'm excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. Of course, any and all other suggestions are welcome. Perhaps there's something you always wanted to try. Perhaps there's something we used to do that has fallen by the wayside and you would like to try again. Let me know. The possibilities are endless.

Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family.

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes,

Sunday, December 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 by President Kay Sands. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional Prayer for a meeting of helpers from the LBW.

The secretary's report was reviewed. There were two corrections; the morning service on December 24 will be at 9 a.m. not p.m. Also, Kay picked up the cake for first communion.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The Mission Offering for Rhonda Hazen was \$300.56.

There was no Ambassador's report as such.

Pastor reviewed his report. It has been suggested that Pastor puts the Weber's on the newsletter list. He is working on that. He is going to gather a group of folks interested in working on worship services and hymns. Poinsettias will be here to be delivered by the carolers on December 17.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Education – We will not plan on having the youth from Strum that are going to the Youth Gathering help us with the soup and sandwich suppers and Easter breakfast.

Property – The parking lot has been paved. The cost was \$11,422; \$7,572 for the upper lot and \$3,850 for the flume.

Worship – We will have communion on Christmas Eve. There will be an extra tray of cups set up to be filled if needed.

Collection baskets have been set out to collect items of food and personal care during Advent.

Art Syth will be at the January Council meeting to provide information on volunteering at the Sojourner House.

Pastor will order 90 cranberry hymnals, the two books for the accompanist, the two books for the pulpit, and the one or two books with chords for the guitar. The books will be paid for with memorials from Joe Sands.

John Poore's and Aaron Sands' service on the council is over this year. They need to find replacements to run for officer-at-large on the council.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Budget to present at the Annual Meeting – Roxie presented the possible budget and we went over line items, making changes where we felt necessary. We also looked at the salary/vacation for Pastor JonPaul.

Mission Offering: December – Community Table

January – Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Rice Program

Other items – We have had an overrun on the copier cost. We will set up a group to work on using fewer copies for the weekly bulletin to see if we can reduce copies. Kay will work on this.

Pastor asked if we should be considering a stipend for the Youth/Sunday School Director.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 28, 2018.

Next meeting – January 7, at 10:30.

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

We adjourned at 11:58. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Poore

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

*By the light of the Psalms:

He dealt bountifully with me.

Psalms 13:6

*If I begin counting my blessings today,
I won't be finished until next January*

**By Chris Shea*

Treasurers' Report

None submitted

WELCA

Parish Nursing

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

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to everyone who has a January birthday.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on January 28. The group will also lead worship that evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF). Some members of the Praise Team have been helping out the chaplain at CVCTF with leading Bible studies and coordinating the men's praise worship services during the week. This prison ministry has truly become a blessing to members of the Praise Team!

Thank you's

**To All – Thank you for all you've done. Your prayers are truly appreciated.
Matt & Rhonda Hazen**

TEXTS AND READERS for January

Baptism of Our Lord – 7th

White Sharon Anderson

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

Second Sunday after Epiphany – 14th

Green Roxie Ulness

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Third Sunday after Epiphany – 21st

Green Kay Sands

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Third Sunday after Epiphany – 28th

Green Corissa Sands

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Annual meeting



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday,**
January 21st, - 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 and Newsletter articles are
due by Wednesday; I will print them on
Thursday, thanks.



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)

Deb Friis -She was diagnosed with
cancer, friend of Kim Vlcek's

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

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

Rhonda Hazen – liver transplant; healing

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & 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

Luanne Helen – Kyle & Kasey Bahr's other
Grandma – preparing for medical test and
surgery on her knee.

Our service men and women,

The inmates at CVCTF

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:

Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance

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’

JANUARY 2018

Epiphany
Baptism of Our Lord