

## Pastor's Corner, July 2018

### The Bible in 90 Days

Recent surveys show that while 87% of US households own a Bible, most Americans do not engage with the Bible outside of worship more than a few times a year. In fact, 1/3 of Americans never read the Bible! A little more than half of Americans say they have read very little of the Bible. Only 11% report they have actually read the whole Bible.

But, and I think this is good news, nearly 60% of Americans desire to read the Bible more often and consider this an important part of their faith journey.

Engagement and study of God's word is an important part of who we are as Christians. We read, study, teach, preach, pray, and live the scriptures in our daily lives. Scripture plays a central role in the life of followers of Jesus.

I've talked about it on Sunday mornings and online, but this summer I have decided to take a journey. For 90 days, I am working my way through the Bible, from cover to cover. By the time you read this, I will be on week 4 and into the Book of 1 Samuel, having already journeyed through Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges.

Of course, this isn't to brag or show off, but instead to invite you on this same journey. As I have been reading, I have discovered many things that I didn't know before. And, things I thought I knew well, I am discovering again. As I read, the Spirit continually surprises me with these stories.

The Bible is full of love and joy. It's full of fear and hatred. It's full of hardship. It's full of doubt and anger. It's full of family relationships that are both healthy and unhealthy. Basically,

it's full of what it is to be human. And, in the midst of all the messiness that makes up our lives, it shows us how God's love and faithfulness to humans has remained unchanged since "In the beginning."

I love this book. I love these stories. I love this God. And, as I am reading, it has shown me that no matter what happens in this life, God is forever faithful through Jesus and that the Spirit is alive and on the move in our world to usher in God's Kingdom.

So, I invite you to take this journey too. On our website, you will find resources to begin this journey. I invite you to come along and see how God will shape your faith as you go.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

### Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

#### Council Minutes,

Sunday, June 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:29 by President Kim Vlcek. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

#### **NON-AGENDA REPORTS**

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Mission Offering to Peace Church for the sewer clean-up was \$283.00. There is some question as to why there was money returned by Luther Park and why some is still owed. Corissa will follow up on this.

Pastor reviewed his report. Next Sunday we will start using Setting 10 in the ELW Hymnal. Also, a policy has been set for funerals. Monday through Friday Pastor JonPaul can officiate at funerals after 4 p.m. He can also officiate for funerals all day on Saturdays and after noon on Sundays. Corissa will check on the legality of burials after dark, which may impact a 4 p.m. funeral in the winter.

We will have a spaghetti dinner on July 15, after a 10 a.m. service, to help raise money for Mariah's missionary trip to Rwanda. We will see if Dwight can edit his Thrivent Seed Card to be used for Mariah's dinner.

Sunday School and confirmation will begin on September 9, 2018. There will be a parent meeting in August. The learning material will be Here We Stand – online. The cost will be \$14.99 per student and \$69 for the 1 year online subscription. There are 7 students that will be attending confirmation. There will also be a teacher training held.

Pastor is working on getting a worship committee together to help plan services for special seasons of the church. They will start by planning the Advent and Christmas services.

A 10 a.m. outdoor service is being planned for September 16 in Olson Park. The Praise Team will lead the music. There will be a picnic lunch after the service.

Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson was elected Bishop of the ELCA at the Synod Convention.

The Ambassador's report detailed the camping schedules for the summer, and who will be attending, as well as Annabelle's trip to Texas.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Education – No further update.

Property – Olson Park has been looked over. There is a lot of underbrush and upkeep that needs to be done. Perhaps the concrete from the old church steps can be left where it is, since it has been overgrown and won't necessarily impact the putting in of stairs.

A building and grounds committee, Dale and Dwight, will work with Julie Schwensen to have a walk-around to get ideas for landscaping, etc. Julie feels it would be possible to put some kind of stairs in the side-hill to get up to the park without driving.

Also, the carpets in the church need to be cleaned. Dale will look into hiring someone that can do that.

Worship – We will have a 10 a.m. service on July 15 followed by a spaghetti dinner to help Mariah raise funds for her year

in Rwanda as a missionary. The outdoor Olson Park service will be on September 16 at 10 a.m.

The membership list is still in progress.

Mission update – Kim would like to start a pen pal project with Maritza. The letters could be written by the confirmation students. They could be scanned and e-mailed to Lauren Vaske, the gal in charge of the program in Guatemala. Also, there are two more trips planned for travel to Guatemala – one in November and one in February.

Praying the plat book - We have a list of "neighbors" of Pleasant Valley. When we have the names grouped into a workable list letters will be sent and we will decide how to effectively pray for them. We may invite a committee be formed to pray for them. We should have that already in the fall, at which point the group of neighbors being prayed for will be added to the prayer concerns, but not individually.

The prayer chain is on hold.

We will look for a youth to sit on council at the next Annual Meeting.

The question was raised; Do we have any line items in the budget where we can take money for Mariah's trip? We have money in the Youth account from soup and sandwich suppers and the Easter breakfast, and we also have money in the Seminary account through Thrivent. Mariah starts training on August 14. Corissa will get the facts on how much Mariah still needs and when it is due. We will discuss this at the July meeting.

The purchase of the new TV monitor is on hold.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The forming of committees will be put on hold until the end of the summer. We will also discuss having a booth at Cleghorn Fest when we get closer to the date – the second weekend in September. We had talked about changing the format from a ticket-only approach to something to attract kids/adults besides the chance to win something at the bazaar.

Next Sunday Pastor will relate to the congregation what we learned from Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson from the study she did. He will also do a temple talk on outreach and perhaps the formation of two committees – one

to brainstorm outreach ideas and one perhaps to pray for our neighbors. The reincarnation of our Men's and Women's groups is also something that the council would like to see happen.

In July Kay will get the list of needed school supplies out so we can collect supplies in August – the 5, 12, and 19 – to fill our big backpack. They will be blessed and in the school as the students and their parents come to get ready for the new year.

Mission Offering: June – Mariah Sands – for her year as a missionary in Rwanda

July – Barnabas

Christian Coffee House in Chippewa Falls

August – Eleva

Backpack Weekend Meals – through Feed My People

**OTHER ITEMS –**

Next meeting – July 8, at 10:30

Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dale.

We adjourned at 11:55. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Poore

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

**Treasurers' Report**

**Summary of Offering and Expenses**

Y-T-D	March	April	May
Offering			
\$21,226.34	\$4,540.00	\$4,568.00	\$3,857.00
Misc. Income			
\$605.91	\$0.00	\$250.18	\$71.34
Expenses			
\$19,589.53	\$3,639.01	\$3,853.29	\$4,058.94

Year to date the offering exceeds expense by \$2,242.72

April mission offering for The Pen Project was \$258.00

May mission offering for Peace Lutheran's Westside Sewage Recovery project was \$283.00

ELW Cranberry Hymnals in memory of Joe Sands Jr., from the Sands family

**Building Fund:**

In memory of Orvin Larson, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Margaret Hazen, from David Handon

In memory of fathers, Selmer Anderson and Delain Anderson from Dale & Sharon Anderson

Respectfully submitted:  
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**News!** On July 15, 2018, Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church is hosting a fundraiser for Mariah Sands to raise money for her trip to Rwanda, Africa. She will be working as a missionary starting in August 2018 to July 2019. The church service will be at 10:00 a.m. with a spaghetti dinner to follow from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**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 July 22 and 29. The group will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility those evenings. Practices are on Wednesdays this summer at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend!

**Parish Nursing**

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

**WELCA**

Plan ahead what you can make and bring to the fall Bazaar! First Sunday in October, watch for more info!

## TEXTS AND READERS for July

### **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost -1<sup>st</sup>**

*Green* *Kay Sands*

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

### **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost —8<sup>th</sup>**

*Green* *Julie Schwennsens*

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost —15<sup>th</sup>**

*Green* *Randy Sands*

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Green* *Sharon Anderson*

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Green* *Larry Sands*

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21



## Sunday School

The Sunday school will begin again in the fall. Plan on teaching. Begins: Sept. 9, 2018

## Thank you's:

To Pastor JonPaul and our friends at Pleasant Valley Church,

Thank you for the wonderful service and kinds words in honor of our Dad.

You made us feel at home,

Thank you again Russ, Charlene, Jeff & Mike Larson and families

To Pastor JonPaul and Pleasant Valley Members

Thank you so much for allowing us to make Reagan's baptism even more special by including Jennifer in her ceremony. It means so much to us and we feel blessed to have had the warmest welcome of Reagan into God's family. Also, thank you to the ladies who crafted the beautiful quilt! We love it and look forward to many years of use!

Thanks again,

Jordan, Kelly & Reagan Brick

## Why families?

God invented families so life could go on. Through families, God creates and nurtures human life. When you make peanut butter sandwiches, teach a teen to drive, squeeze a fearful hand or cut the toenails of someone who can't do it anymore, God is nurturing life through you. Families can be intimate learning labs, prime places to practice being merciful. Families are places where, by God's grace, we can give each other fresh starts and renewed hope.

*This message is adapted from "What Is Family?" written by Karen Melang in the June 1993 issue of Lutheran Woman Today (now Gather) magazine.*

**BLOOD DRIVE - JULY 24, 2018**

**Pleasant Valley Community Center,**

**12pm - 6pm. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to  
schedule an appointment.**

**Sponsor Code: Cleghorn Lions**



**IN NEED OF PRAYER**

**Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**Maritza Nohemi** - 7<sup>th</sup> grader in Guatemala, whose education we are sponsoring this year

**Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson** - our new Bishop

**Danny Najbrt** - diagnosis positive for MS, Kim Bahr's nephew

**Steve Glende** – seeing specialist for his lungs and his blood

**Romaine Knutson** - a member of Pastor JonPaul's family; diagnosis of cancer and has begun treatment

**Nick Polkowske** – prostate cancer and heart trouble

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

**Gerri Sessions** – strengthening & healing

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer

**Christine Thompson** – struggling with lupus: is in the American Lutheran Home in Mondovi.

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

**The inmates at [CVCTF](#)**

**All those on our Visiting list:**

**Avis Erickson, Gary Hazen,  
Dave Bloom, Bob Dutter,  
Jim & Janice Teigen**

**July mission offering:** Barnabas Christian Coffee House in Chippewa Falls

**\*By the light of the Psalms:**

*Be thou my strong habitation  
where unto I may continually  
Resort  
Psalms 71:3*

*And wherein is a ways a  
room for me*

*\*By Chris Shea*

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**  
**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday,**  
**July 22<sup>nd</sup> - for the August Newsletter**  
**Call Monica Bahr - 715-287-4742,**  
**or E-mail: [dmbahr@tcc.coop](mailto:dmbahr@tcc.coop). Also, E-mail**  
**the church at: [plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop](mailto: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**  
**Wednesday, for the summer month,**  
**thanks, Monica**

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’*

**JULY 2018**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> EVERYONE!**

**Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. worship with a spaghetti dinner at Church; a fund raiser for Mariah Sands mission to Rwanda**